

BRIEF PERSPECTIVE ON RESTORING A BROTHER / SISTER

Sin in the church was and is a reality. It should be obvious from reading about the problems that the early churches faced (Acts and all the epistles) and all the way to Christ's rebuke of His churches in Revelation. We know and experience discord brought about by sin. (I know, having been convicted by the Spirit of God for lacking gentleness in correcting my daughter. I had vision of a speck and a log.)

Having established and accepted that there is a problem of sin, what was the Lord's teaching (through Paul) to the Galatians (and to us).

The emphasis surprised me in that very little was said of the transgressor compared to the person restoring the transgressor.

So, what was the emphasis? That the person walks in the Spirit, and in his Spirit-led journey to please the Lord, he is sensitive of his own frailty and when confronted with the sin of another, he can respond in gentleness. The goal of restoring another brother was so that his brother can walk in the Spirit, loving and pleasing Christ.

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WARMING UP

1. For Parents. How did you fare on the gentleness and humility scale when disciplining your children?
2. Non-parents. How do you correct someone in an area where you yourselves have a weakness in?

INTO THE PASSAGES

Read Galatians 6:1-6 - To whom was the exhortation directed to? The sinner or restorer?

3. *'Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness.'*

- a. Who qualifies to be involved in restoring someone?
- b. How should the restoration be carried out?
- c. Restored back to what?

4. *'Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.'*

- a. What imagery do you see of someone who is struggling with sin?
- b. How should our response be?
- c. What is this law of Christ that Paul was referring to?

Read Galatians 6:7-10 - Sowing and reaping

5. *'Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.'*

- a. In what ways were some of the Galatians mocking God?
- b. Could you name some bible characters who suffered the consequences of their actions?

6. *'For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.'*

Sowing to the flesh is easy. How does one sow to the Spirit?

Read Galatians 6:11-18 - Final warning

7. *For my part, I am going to boast about nothing but the Cross of our Master, Jesus Christ. Because of that Cross, I have been crucified in relation to the world, set free from the stifling atmosphere of pleasing others and fitting into the little patterns that they dictate. Can't you see the central issue in all this? It is not what you and I do—submit to circumcision, reject circumcision. It is what God is doing, and he is creating something totally new, a free life! All who walk by this standard are the true Israel of God—his chosen people. Peace and mercy on them!*
(The Message)

How do we partner with God in all that He is doing in this world?

MOVING FORWARD

One key lesson was whether one was walking in the Spirit or walking in the flesh.

What steps can you take to walk consistently in the Spirit?

LIFE TOGETHER

This passage highlighted both personal and corporate responsibility. We have a corporate responsibility to restore one another but must watch ourselves.

We must carry each other's burden but make sure we carry our own load. We must do good to all people but be careful of sowing correctly. Reaffirm your commitment to one another in the small group because we are fulfilling the law of Christ when we do so.

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Leaders Guides

These notes are primarily for the Into the Passage portion, and are to be used just as guidelines or commentary notes. Most of them are my own thoughts, so take that with a grain of salt. Let the Word of God lead you to truth, not these notes.

INTO THE PASSAGES

Read Galatians 6:1-6 - To whom was the exhortation directed to? The sinner or restorer?

3. *'Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness.'*

a. Who qualifies to be involved in restoring someone?

One who is spiritual, one who has the Spirit of God in him.

b. How should the restoration be carried out?

In gentleness. In addition, the succeeding few verses are for the would-be restorer to reflect upon. How is my own spiritual life? Why am I doing this restoration? Am I neglecting my own responsibilities in the Body of Christ? Am I building the Body of Christ?

c. Restored back to what? **Sinner must be restored to back to daily personal walk with God, living by the Spirit of God.**

4. *'Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.'*

a. What imagery do you see of someone who is struggling with sin? **That the burden of sin was overwhelming and it was too much for the person to carry. The person is unable to cope with everyday living or unable to live optimally - not in fellowship, etc..**

b. How should our response be?

We must help bear the other person's burden, through physical, emotional and spiritual support. The long term view is to restore so that the person is living for God by himself, not perpetually depending on other people.

c. What is this law of Christ that Paul was referring to?

Read Galatians 6:7-10 - Sowing and reaping

5. *'Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.'*

Sept 22, 2013 || *Restoring a brother / sister (Galatians 6:1-18)* || William How

a. In what ways were some of the Galatians mocking God?

Some Galatians thought that there were no consequences to their actions, without realising that their actions brought discord to the Body of Christ. Because there is no immediate judgement, they carried on doing wrong.

b. Could you name some bible characters who suffered the consequences of their actions?

King David lost his child because of his adulterous action, Samson lost his life because of his lust, etc...

6. *'For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.'*

Sowing to the flesh is easy. How does one sow to the Spirit?

This is a study on its own. The purpose of the Spirit is 'to teach you all things and will remind you of everything I (Jesus) have said to you (John 14:26). But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. (John 16:13). So, a major part of sowing to the Spirit is to immerse ourselves in the Word of God so that our mind is renewed. Another major area where the Spirit of God helps us is in prayer (Gal 4:6, Rom 8:26). So, if a person who reads the Word of God and prayer regularly sows to the Spirit.

Read Galatians 6:11-18 - Final warning

7. *For my part, I am going to boast about nothing but the Cross of our Master, Jesus Christ. Because of that Cross, I have been crucified in relation to the world, set free from the stifling atmosphere of pleasing others and fitting into the little patterns that they dictate. Can't you see the central issue in all this? It is not what you and I do—submit to circumcision, reject circumcision. It is what God is doing, and he is creating something totally new, a free life! All who walk by this standard are the true Israel of God—his chosen people. Peace and mercy on them! (The Message)*

How do we partner with God in all that He is doing in this world?

See answer to Question 6. God is working in this world and only the spiritual person can discern and partner with God in all that God is doing. I concur with Bert that a big part in the spiritual formation of a person is in community. A person who persistently and wilfully withdraw from fellowship is depriving himself/herself of spiritual growth and hence, spiritual maturity.