

Bear One Another's Burdens

www.cvillechurch.com

Introduction: Our Need for Wisdom as We Restore the Erring Brother.

A. Perhaps one of the biggest weaknesses in the church today is the failure to restore the erring brother or sister in Christ.

1. Too often we fail to take notice of brethren around who are struggling and when we finally decide to reach out to them it is late.

B. Despite our failings and the challenge of the task, we must not stop trying!

1. Rather than give up and ignore those who are weak, let us come to understand the will of the Lord concerning this important work.

C. It is crucial that we turn to the word of God for guidance *before* we make any attempt to restore the erring brother.

1. Our efforts will be ineffective and can even be destructive if we go about it in the wrong way without regard to the wisdom of God.
2. If we are concerned about one another's souls, then we will obey the commands of the Lord as we put forth the effort to help others (**Gal 6:1-5**).

I. Restoring the Erring Brother is a Duty.

A. Be observant and notice when your brother is in trouble with sin (**Gal. 6:1**).

1. There will be brethren who are "overtaken" or "caught" off guard by sin (e.g., ignorance, weakness, deception, negligence, persuaded by error).
2. When that happens, we need to be quick to come to his aid, just as if our brother had just gotten into a bad traffic accident!
3. Spiritual sickness or sin is an even more serious problem! (**Jas 5:19-20**)

B. If you are *spiritual*, make the effort to restore him to God (**Gal. 6:1**).

1. "Spiritual" does not refer to a special, elite class of Christians!
2. *Any* Christian who walking by the Spirit is spiritual (**Gal. 5:22-23**).
3. The immature, weak, or "carnal" should not go! (**1 Cor. 3:1**).
4. Those that are spiritual will be much more inclined to fulfill their duty and will not be quick to make excuses to avoid responsibility.

C. You are required by *the law of Christ* to share his spiritual struggles (**Gal. 6:2**).

1. We are to help carry or lift our brother's spiritual burdens or weights.
2. None of us are meant to handle all our spiritual struggles alone!
3. When we do not reach out a helping hand, fail to keep His law.
4. Fulfilling His law is to obey "the new commandment" (**John 13:34**).

II. How to Restore Our Erring Brother.

A. Restore him in a spirit of meekness (**Gal. 6:1; cf. 2 Cor. 10:1**).

1. To *restore* someone is to strengthen one to be what he ought to be before God (from KATARTIZO i.e., “to mend or repair” cf. **Mark 1:19**).
2. A spirit or attitude of *meekness* is absolutely essential (i.e., gentle, kind, keeping all our powers under the control of God and His will).
3. Don’t be harsh, belittling, domineering, aggravating, abusive, or rude.
4. Be compassionate (while exposing error), be soothing (while reasoning by the Scriptures), and sympathetic (yet do not excuse sin).

B. “Consider yourself” - Be humble (**Gal. 6:1**).

1. Don’t think you are above temptation! *You* might need to be restored one day! “*Take heed*” (**1 Cor. 10:12**)
2. Do not deceive yourself into thinking you are “something” (w/o fault), when in actuality you are “nothing” (a violator of God’s law) (**Gal. 6:3**).
3. Those who believe they are “something” often think they are above those they help out of sin (demeaning, beneath them).
4. Such people are really “nothing” because they have a false estimate of themselves and are full of pride and sin.
5. We must not be condescending or arrogant in our approach (**Rom 12:3**), less we lack sympathy, compassion, and sensitivity to others.

C. Be honest (**Gal. 6:4**).

1. Instead of having a boastful attitude, be honest about yourself and your own work (Are *you* approved of God? Is there sin in *your* life?).
2. Every Christian should examine or prove his work (or life) to be genuine and pleasing (**2 Cor. 13:5**).
3. We should be just as willing to take an honest look into “the mirror” of God’s word as we are to help others look in that mirror! (**Jas 1:22-25**).

D. Hold yourself accountable to the truth (**Gal. 6:5**).

1. Each is to be responsible in carrying his own load or burden (**Lk 14:27**).
2. Too often we use the faults of others as a standard to measure ourselves instead of the word of God (**2 Cor. 10:12; cf. John 12:48**).
3. We will all be held accountable for what we have done (**2 Cor. 5:10**).

Conclusion: Bearing One Another’s Burdens is the Will of Christ. Let Us Demonstrate His Love By Helping Each Other Overcome Sin.