

"HOW DO I TREAT THE CHRISTIAN WHO HAS SINNED"

Gal. 6:1-5

Paul puts us to a test who controls my life in Gal. 5. Read. Gal. 6:1-5.

How am I to respond to a brother or sister who sins? Here is one overtaken in a sin. The word fault, is simply sin, trespass.

Debate, find one in sin - tempted to overlook. Not going about spying as a fruit inspector.

Drastic statement - Christians do sin.

Legalists were saying do what we say, and you will be a spiritual giant. And low, some one sinned.

Old Testament - Noah got drunk. Abraham lied. Isaac lied. Jacob schemed.

New Testament - Peter cut off a man's ear, good thing he had a bad aim.

Churches had sinners. Paul wrote Phil. "I beseech Enodias, and beseech Syntyche, that they be of the same mind in the Lord." Two women in a church could not get along with each other.

The spiritually minded person uses another man's sins as a tool to build with.

Some would say - you can't build on another man's mistakes.

David, the record says committed two sins - adultery with Bathsheba and numbered the people. On that proud day 70,000 people died.

David bought a piece of property - remember and built an altar. He sacrificed and God withdrew the plague.

Think - David married Bathsheba after death of her husband, Solomon was born. Solomon took the piece of property that David purchased and built a Temple. Only God could take a man with two great sins and build a Temple out of them.

Not excusing sin - David paid for sin until the end of his days.

What I'm say is, don't despair!

I thank God in Heaven he does not deal with my sins as my brethren do.

That is why David said, "Let us fall now into the hands of our Lord, for his mercies are great and let me not fall into the hands of man."

Corinthians sued each, got drunk, abused the Lord's table and the gifts of the Spirit.

The Scripture is not given to encourage us to sin. None of us should ever say -- well Peter had a bad temper--so I will lose my temper. David committed adultery, so I can get away with it.

The record is given to encourage us to do the right thing (after) we have sinned. If a man sins as David, Abraham, Peter, it does not say you are free to sin. It says, look, what happened when you sin.

After we have sinned the accuser comes along and says you are done for. Satan is a sneaky foe. Before you sin, he says you can get away with it. Then, after he comes and says you can't get away with that, you are done. Turn your Bible in. *hang up your crown*

People are on the shelf. You have an advocate with the Father.

The way you and I respond to somebody else's sin indicates whether or not we are fleshly or spiritual. The spiritually minded person will obey the instructions of Paul.

V. 1 - What are these instructions? He instructs us as to what we should do. Our purpose is to restore. Then he tells us why we should do it. Our motive: love.

Fulfill the law of Christ which is love. He tells us what we should do - restore.
He tells us why we should do it - love. And he tells us how we should do it - meekness.

When a believer sins, I want to help restore him. Show Christian love and I am going to do it in the spirit of meekness.

If I say aha, he's sinned. Now I've got him. I can fix him. That's law. Law convinces, cannot give life. A mirror can not wash your face.

I. WHAT WE SHOULD DO - V. 1.

1. Restore.

It does not say "rejoice" over such a one. There are some people like that. The only way that they can look good is by making you look bad.

Elder brother lost his temper in the parable of the prodigal son. As long as that young man was out in the far country, and the rumors kept coming back of what he was doing, the elder brother looked good. He could get up in the morning and say, I've been faithful, I work in the field.

As long as the other boy looked bad. The elder son looked good. Then the boy came home, repented, and said "I want to be a servant. I want you to forgive me and restore me."

That made the elder brother not look so good and he would not come in. He stayed outside.

Even Though Prodigal Goes wrong - Elder Bro. 100% Right -

A big feast was going on in there. The Father was there.

Not only was he out of (fellowship) with his brother, but his Father.

His Father came out and the boy still would not go in. His attitude was one "by making you look bad, I make myself look good."

If the only way I can make myself look good is by criticizing you, there is something seriously wrong with me.

2. Reveal.

It does not say rejoice - nor reveal.

If a man be overtaken in a fault, you who are spiritual reveal it to everybody!

I Peter 4 says that love covers a multitude of sins. Love does not condone sin, but hurt.

Every mother and father knows what disobedience does to the heart. Love does not condone, God saves people by his love and grace. That is love that pays a price. God loves the whole world - the whole world is not saved. Love covers sin.

Noah got drunk - his younger son Ham saw his father lying there in drunken nakedness and laughed about it. The other two boys turned their backs, took a cover, and covered him. Love covers. Legalist reveals.

3. Rejects

It does not say if a man is overtaken in a fault you are spiritual - reject him.

Have a quick trial - drag him in - I often wondered where the man was that day the woman was brought in before Jesus.

He shocked them as he wrote in the sand.

4. Restore

Great word. Katartizo.

Luke knew this word - it was a medical word - it meant to set the broken bone. As Doctors and nurses.

Here is a believer in the body of Christ who has brought a broken bone into the body of Christ. And that hurts. It spreads. It weakens. We make it worse if we use (crowbar) or pipe wrench. There must be tenderness in setting the broken bone.

✓ Fishermen knew this word. Peter would have known because it is used in Matthew for (mending the nets). They had been out fished all night. They came in washing nets. Repairing the nets, they were strengthening the nets.

Here is a brother who has sinned. He cannot longer go out and catch fish. No longer used. But he needs mending. He needs help.

We take those nets and throw them out? No, we come and mend the nets. If I had fished and caught nothing, I would be selling my nets. We say look what he has done, get rid of him.

✓ Soldiers knew this word, to them it meant to be equipped for battle. They had their armour on, they had their swords, shields - equipped for battle.

But here is a man who has fallen in sin. He has lost the battle. But he does not have to lose the war. Can somebody help get this man back on his feet with sword, shield, and armour?

Did you know that the shield of the Roman soldiers were beveled at the edges so when a soldier stood next to another soldier, they could lock their shields together and form a wall? We need to do that - lock our shields and help restore one.

Sailors knew this word, it meant outfitting a ship for a long voyage. Here is a ship that has been tossed in the storms of life, and something hits that ship and he starts to go down.

What are we going to do? Let him sink? No, we are going to help raise the ship and save the cargo. Divers in our day go down and discover old ships at the bottom with gold in them, and all sorts of hidden cargo.

Here is a man whose cargo is going to be lost. I am not saying he is losing his salvation.

But his usefulness is going to be lost.

When someone sins, the first response of the spiritually minded man is -- my purpose is restore.

II. WHY WE SHOULD DO IT

Our motive - love.

V. 2 - Bear ye one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ. "

Here is the law of Christ - a new Commandment I give unto you - that ye love one another."

Love one another found 14 times in New Testament.

One Another - we belong to one another - somebody. Members of the same family. Members in the same body. Soldiers of the same army. Stones in the same building. Sheep in the same flock. In honor preferring one another, be of same mind toward one another, do not judge one another, receive ye one another, serve one another, forgive one another, submitting one to another, exhort one another, have fellowship with another and on it goes.

Bear ye one another's burdens -- you say, (I have got) enough problems with my own burdens.

There is a strange formula in the Christian life that goes like this -- the more I help you with your burdens, the more God helps me with mine.

We do not believe that, we sit at home and lick our wounds and say, nobody cares about me. Nobody knows how I feel.

Bear ye one another's burdens is the way love is expressed. Does not say pray about burdens - it says bear them.

V. 5 - Seems contradict himself.

"For every man shall bear his own burden."

New Testament - two Greek words used for burden.

V. 2 - Burden - means heavy load, trials that others can help us bear.

V. 5 - Burden - means a soldiers pack. Two soldiers cannot carry same pack.
Some responsibilities only you can bear. There are burdens that are yours and yours alone. I cannot do it for you.

But there are other burdens that you carry, and I ought to come along side and say, "Friend, I want to help you with that burden."

Why do we do that? Because of love. You see, he uses the word brethren to begin the chapter and ends. V. 18 with brethren.

We are brothers and sisters in the Lord and this means love. Why do we do it? Because of love.

You mean if I do not help my brother get restored - it is showing I lack love?
yes.

But isn't that costly? Yes, it is always costly? Yes. Love is costly, but do I have to? No. But if you are spiritual you will.

Law of Christ is love - yield to the Holy Spirit. You are spiritual. Love is not something we manufacture.

It is not - so I have to love this brother so I will - no - it is something God puts in our hearts.

Jesus told the story of the Good Samaritan. A man is coming down from Jerusalem to Jericho. Here are various persons involved in the story. Here were thieves. They exploit the victim. A priest and levite came down the road. The wounded man was a nuisance to avoid. Just a problem to discuss. The Samaritan picked up the fellow and took him to the inn. What was this fellow to the inn keeper? Just a customer to serve -- I'd better go to visit these folks, after all, that's my job.

When you look at people, do you see them as customers, or problems. Is there interest in pouring in oil and wine, killing germs, soothing the pain and making him feel better.

Pharisees instead of bearing the burden - Matt. 23. Add to man's burdens, lay on heavy grievous burdens. Not lift a finger to make them lighter.

Jesus was not like that - love covers.

III. HOW DO WE DO IT?

This part, not easy.

V. 1 - "Restore such a one in the spirit of meekness." Considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.

V. 3 - "For if any man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself."

Paul was laying down a principle here that is basic. The way I think about myself will determine how I think about you.

If I think of myself as most important, I will not think of you as important.

Phil. "Let each esteem other."

King James - "Better than themselves."

Greek - "More important than yourself."

In many areas we are all better than others. Russell Mathews can play the organ far better than I can. I think maybe, I know where to turn it on! I know people who are better athletes than I am.

Paul says consider others.

5:26 - Let us not be desirous of vain glory. Provoking one another, envying one another. Competing with one another. Pride makes it impossible to minister to you.

I want my surgeon, when he operates, to use a very fine scalpel and a very gentle touch. Here I am getting a knock out shot and in walks my surgeon with a hatchet!

Yet sometimes that is the way we treat saints, how should we do it. With the spirit of meekness. Why? For his sake. Not hurt him anymore.

Why is it when we see a Christian down, we feel constrained to kick him? We should encourage him for his sake and your own sake.

Meekness is not weakness -- it is a fruit of the Spirit. Cannot manufacture meekness.

Meekness is power under control. The word describes a horse that had been broken. There is power there, but it is under control. The word meekness was used to describe a dose of soothing medicine. There is power there under control.

Word used to describe the soothing wind that would come toward evening in the hot climate. Power under control.

Do it in the spirit of meekness because you might be tempted. What does that mean? What happened to you, if I had been there, I would not have done that. How do you know?

A week before David took a vacation from the battle and came back home and laid aside his armor and got into trouble.

If you had said, David you are going to commit adultery, make a man drunk, kill a man.

And then when the Chaplain came and talked to David about his sin . . . gave him that story about the ewe lamb, the rich man who had all those flocks and herds, the poor man who had one little ewe lamb, and how the rich man stole the ewe lamb -- David's temper flared. "That man shall restore fourfold." David did restore fourfold. The baby died - Amnon died. Absalom died. Tamar was violated. He paid for it.

If you had told him that was going to happen - he would have said - not David. Haven't you read any books. 23rd Psalm. Could he do such a thing.

I was not there when the internal decay started - Paul knocks your props out - "Let every man take heed." Just take heed.

Danger is vain glory.

