

The letter to the  
**Galatians**

1. **ch. 1-2** Paul's explanation of the Gospel comes with divine authority.
2. **ch. 3-4** The New Covenant of Grace displaces the Old Covenant of Law.
3. **ch. 5-6** Positional (legal) holiness should inspire practical (behavioral) holiness.
  - a. Walk in the Spirit not in the flesh.
  - b. **Watch out for yourself and each other.**



Galatians 6

“<sup>1</sup> Brethren, even if a man is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, lest you too be tempted. <sup>2</sup> Bear one another's burdens, and thus fulfill the law of Christ. <sup>3</sup> For if anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself. <sup>4</sup> But let each one examine his own work, and then he will have reason for boasting in regard to himself alone, and not in regard to another. <sup>5</sup> For each one shall bear his own load.”

“<sup>1</sup> Brethren, even if a man is caught (**overtaken**) in any trespass (**a work of the flesh - 5:19**),

**Who needs restoring?**

1. **All Christians can, and often do manifest some works of the flesh.**
2. **This guides our interpretation of 5:21** “those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.”
3. “Caught” **does not mean “exposed in” but rather “overtaken by.”**

**Three levels of transgression**

1. **Tolerable sins calling for forbearance.**
  - to whom much is given much is expected,
  - teachers are under a greater judgment,
  - those new to the faith need space,
  - there are lesser and greater sins
  - doubtful issues
2. **Outward works of the flesh need to be confronted & corrected.**
3. **The inner mind set on the flesh needs to be challenged & renewed.**

“you who are spiritual, restore such a one”

**Who is responsible to restore?**

1. **Not everyone is responsible to address the sins of others.**
  - ✓ It is easier to identify the sin than restore the sinner.
  - ✓ If you are not a part of the problem or the solution stand back.
  - ✓ Confrontation can make things worse if done poorly.
2. **The call is to restore not condemn.**
  - ✓ Move toward don't withdraw from.
  - ✓ Bring back the fallen don't cast out or shut out.
  - ✓ Protect dignity don't shame family members.

“Discipline in the church is not punishment. It is discipline and discipline is designed to train and restore.”

J. Hampton Keathley III

### Qualifications for a correcting ministry

1. **Experience** - Understanding the dynamics of the spiritual life.
2. **Relationship** - A trusted connection with the one being corrected.
3. **Listening** - Sensitivity to address the roots of personal failure.
4. **Wisdom** - Knowing how to wisely confront, correct, and restore.

“in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, lest you too be tempted.”

### How is restoration to take place?

1. **Empathy** is key to all ministry especially restoration ministry.
2. Auditing others should start with **auditing self**.
3. Those who restore must be **gentle, and humble**.

**Examples:** 1 Corinthians, woman at well, woman caught in adultery, prodigal son, etc.

Matthew 18

#### 1. **Privacy is respected.**

“<sup>15</sup> If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, **just between the two of you**. **If** he listens to you, you have won your brother over.

#### 2. **Pressure is applied proportionately.**

<sup>16</sup> But **if** he will not listen, take one or two others along, **so that every matter may be established** by the testimony of two or three witnesses.

#### 3. **Public exposure is a last resort.**

<sup>17</sup> **If** he refuses to listen to them, **tell it to the church**;

#### 4. **Church discipline is the final option.**

and **if** he refuses to listen even to the church, **treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector.**”

“<sup>2</sup> Bear one another’s burdens, and thus fulfill the law of Christ. <sup>3</sup> For if anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself. <sup>4</sup> But let each one examine his own work, and then he will have reason for boasting in regard to himself alone, and not in regard to another. <sup>5</sup> For each one shall bear his own load.”

1. The “**law of Christ**” is self sacrificing love.
2. The “**body of Christ**” is a “one another” community that is to:
  - feed & support - encourage & comfort - correct & restore
3. We **need to love one another** not to defer to others or to lord it over others.

## Lessons

- ✓ The sins of others invite us to show the love of Christ as we work to **restore not condemn** the sinner.
- ✓ The way we approach the sins of others says a lot about the fruit of the Spirit in us.
- ✓ Restoration has to do with both **outer behaviors and inner beliefs**.
- ✓ We **pull together** or we fall apart.