**God is Not Mocked**

**by Pastor Fee Soliven**

**Galatians 6:1-8**

**Wednesday Evening**

**October 12, 2022**

**Galatians 6:1-8**

1 Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. 2 Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

3 For if anyone thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. 4 But let each one examine his own work, and then he will have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another. 5 For each one shall bear his own load.

6 Let him who is taught the word share in all good things with him who teaches. 7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.

**1 Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.**

Saints, Paul addressed the problem of individual sin by explaining corporate (group) responsibility. A Christian may sin alone, but because he or she participates in the body of Christ, his or her sin affects the whole.

Our reaction to other Christians’ sins ought not to be how we can rid the church of these sinners. Rather, we should help our brothers and sisters who are fellow members of the body of Christ.

The phrase, if a Christian is overcome by some sin, pictures a believer being trapped or caught by sin. No church, indeed no believer, is completely free of sin, for sinful human desires still exist in believers (as Paul explained in 5:16-18).

**Galatians 5:16-18**

16 I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. 17 For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

We must not report every sin or point out each person’s failings. While Paul didn’t explain the word sin, he focused on the type of sin that entraps a person, refusing to let him or her go and causing damage to his or her faith.

The believers may have wondered how the church should deal with members who have fallen into sin. Should the sin be overlooked in the name of love? Should the sin be exposed to everyone? If not, who needs to know, and what should they do about it?

Paul did not recommend ignoring unrepented sin because, no matter how well hidden, sin will eventually cause problems in the church.

Neither did Paul recommend a public humiliation of the sinner, for that would not achieve the objective of restoring the person to the fellowship.

Paul recommended action, but he gave advice as to who should act and how the action should be taken. First, action should be taken only by those who are godly. Who are these people? Paul was referring to men and women who walk in the Spirit in the sense that Paul had explained at the end of chapter 5.

Only those mature in the faith (see also Hebrews 5:13-14) and mature enough to handle this situation properly should deal with it.

**Hebrews 5:13-14**

13 For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. 14 But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

Saints, in other words, the new, immature believers should not deal with the delicate subject of sin (and sinners) in the church. In addition, mature believers should discern when to confront sin.

**Matthew 18:15-20**

15 "Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. 16 But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that 'by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.'

17 And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector. 18 Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

19 Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. 20 For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them."

Saints, every person’s fault need not be dragged into the light for all to see, but persistent sin that destroys the person and hurts the fellowship must be resolved.

Next, Paul clarified what the spiritually mature should do for the one caught in sin: gently and humbly help that person back onto the right path.

When leaders confront a person caught in sin, they should avoid humiliating, punishing, or using the person as a public example. Instead, the leaders’ purpose should be to restore the person to the fellowship of believers (see 2 Timothy 2:24-26).

**2 Timothy 2:24-26**

24 And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, 25 in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, 26 and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.

Mature believers should help get the person on the right track, encourage repentance and accountability, offer assistance if needed, and warmly accept the repentant person back into the church. All church discipline aims at this goal.

The church has a duty to help erring believers, but each individual believer must take responsibility for dealing with sin and temptation. In situations such as the apostle was describing, those who restore a fallen one could face two temptations:

**1. They might be tempted to have spiritual pride**

**2. They might fall into the same temptation faced by the one they are trying to correct**

**2 Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.**

Saints, as used in this verse, troubles and problems refer to the heavy or oppressive burdens that a believer cannot carry alone. It could be financial burdens; it could be burdens of temptation.

We must help share the loads that others find too heavy to carry alone. However, we must not regard this load as a burden, but a joy.

Like people hiking a trail, we not only shoulder our own backpacks, but we help out with other people’s loads when the trail gets too steep, they get too tired, or their feet get blistered—whenever they need assistance.

To share one another’s troubles also obeys the law of Christ. How so? As Paul had explained,

**John 13:34-35**

34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. 35 By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

Saints, the law of Christ is his “new commandment” summed up when we show love for others. In a sense Paul was saying, “If you insist on carrying burdens, don’t carry the burden of the law;

instead, in love, carry one another’s burdens. Then you not only help one another out and build unity among yourselves, you also fulfill the law of Christ!”

**3 For if anyone thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself.**

Saints, some believers either would refuse to follow Paul’s command to help share one another’s troubles or would do so in order to be noticed and receive praise.

Both motives come from conceit. Those people may have regarded themselves as too important to dirty themselves with others’ problems and failings.

Paul was anxious to warn the Galatians not to tolerate any form of spiritual superiority, no matter how cleverly disguised.

Paul explained that these people’s lack of love for others revealed both their worthlessness to the body of Christ and also their bankrupt spiritual state.

This person may think he is important, but he is really a nobody. The true “somebodies” in the church produce the Holy Spirit’s fruit in their lives, and these people won’t even be concerned about their status. They will be busy helping others.

**4 But let each one examine his own work, and then he will have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another. 5 For each one shall bear his own load.**

Saints, while some people may be conceited regarding their burden bearing, others may feel as though they can’t “share troubles” as well as others.

Some might be afraid of grief or pain; some others might get tongue-tied in trying to offer encouragement; others may be so shy as to be unable to approach needy people.

Conversely, some may have experienced others who, under the pretense of helping, exploit the vulnerability of a person in trouble or violate a trust that was placed in them regarding very personal matters. Both our abilities and motives need healthy, ongoing examination.

Here Paul offered the solution. People should do what they should, and then they could enjoy the personal satisfaction of having done their work well.

Each person is responsible for his or her own conduct. We should compare ourselves to God’s standard, not to anyone else.

The danger of comparing ourselves with others is that we either come out ahead (a cause for false pride) or behind (leading to lowered self-esteem and the danger of not doing any more for others at all).

Christians have different gifts and abilities, but God does not excuse us from sharing others’ troubles. We are not responsible to do everything or to make the same contributions as others; we are responsible to accomplish what God has called us to do.

**6 Let him who is taught the word share in all good things with him who teaches.**

Saints, after describing how the Holy Spirit helps believers in their relationships with others, Paul explained how the Holy Spirit would affect their use of money.

Paul’s first admonition prescribed support of Christian teachers (the true teachers as opposed to the false teachers) in the Galatian churches.

These teachers were serving full-time in preaching and teaching. The congregations (those who are taught the word of God) should voluntarily and generously provide for the teachers’ needs.

This included financial support and sharing material items and services, as well as personal encouragement. While the radical giving and sharing of the early church in Jerusalem (recorded in Acts 2:44-45) was a model,

all churches were not required to follow it. Instead, Paul recommended a spirit of giving among the believers in the churches that he had founded, especially regarding their care for those who were devoting their time to ministry.

**Acts 2:44-45**

44 Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, 45 and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.

**1 Corinthians 9:11**

“If we have sown spiritual things for you, is it a great thing if we reap your material things?”

**1 Corinthians 9:14**

“Even so the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should live from the gospel”

**7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.**

**Hosea 10:13**

“You have plowed wickedness and reaped injustice; you have eaten the fruit of lies. Because you have trusted in your own way and in the multitude of your mighty men”…

**1 Corinthians 6:9**

“Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who submit to or perform homosexual acts” …

**2 Corinthians 9:6**

“Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously”

While people can deceive one another, and even themselves, about their motives and attitudes for giving and by their living, they cannot deceive God. Paul said that these believers themselves must not be misled.

People can’t ignore God and get away with it. What they sow, they will reap. Sow means “spread, utilize, invest.” Whatever we use as key values determines the course of our life.

Jesus taught the importance of investing our time and utilizing our resources wisely for the Kingdom (Matthew 6:19-21).

**Matthew 6:19-21**

19 "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; 20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Saints, while believers have received God’s special blessings and promises, God does not change the positive and negative of the natural law that people will reap what they sow.

From farming to finances, this saying holds true (Proverbs 22:8).

**Proverbs 22:8**

He who sows iniquity will reap sorrow, And the rod of his anger will fail

A farmer plants corn and grows corn; he should not expect nor desire anything else. Believers must decide what crop they want and plant accordingly, for what they get back will be directly related to what they put in, as Paul explains in the next verse.

Saints, Soon and Very soon, Jesus is about to appear, we are almost out of here!

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

**1 Corinthians 15:50-54**

50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed-- 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

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**Acts 2:38-39**

38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

**Let’s Pray!**

**Benediction**

**"May The LORD bless you and keep you, May The LORD make His face shine upon you, May The LORD be gracious to you, May The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you His (Shalom) peace.” In Jesus Name!**