

RESTORING

1. Gal. 6:1-2 ¹ Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.

² Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.

Christ has been defending our spiritual freedoms. There is one law every Christian is to obey, it is the law of LOVE.

God's children are to be one family, caring for one another.

Phil. 2:1-4 ¹ If *there be* therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies,

² Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, *being* of one accord, of one mind.

³ Let nothing *be done* through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.

⁴ Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.

There is no better way to test our claim to "walk by the Spirit" than through our conduct in matters of a fallen brother or sister. And in our relationship to those who come to us and try and teach us.

"If you are overtaken in a fault" God knows the problems that arise in our lives, the best of men and women will slip. We may do something wrong through ignorance, weakness, deception or through bad companionships.

- When someone falls it must be a fact, they are overtaken, not rumors, suspicions or gossip.

- Who is to do something? **"You who are spiritual"**, we are our brothers keeper. The right person for the job.

Eph. 4:15-16 ¹⁵ But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, *even* Christ:

¹⁶ From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

- What are we to do? Let's first look at what we are not to do.

Rom. 16:17 ¹⁷ Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.

This is the last step not the first. A Christian is a caring person we want them to come back to God.

Rom. 15:1 ¹ We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves.

I Thess. 5:14 ¹⁴ Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all *men*.

“Restore” This means, correct, to mend, furnish completely, and set a bone. It requires an expert, someone who is skilled as a teacher.

Not just anyone can do this work, many have a good heart and are a very good Christian, but they should not try and help someone in this situation. If someone breaks a leg, who do you want to set it? Before anyone goes over there should be prayer and thought, for the right person, attitude and their soul. We should restore in the “spirit of gentleness”. How soon do you expect the person who broke a leg to start walking again? It **takes time**, patience, perseverance and love.

“In the spirit of meekness” We pick them up, we hold them up. We don’t give up, how many chances has God given you? Not just anyone can do this work, it does not mean you are a weak Christian, we all have different abilities.

John 13:34-35 ³⁴ A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.

³⁵ By this shall all *men* know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

Rom. 12:3-4 ³ For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think *of himself* more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

⁴ For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office:

“Bear ye one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ”.

We are to support each other in every way, in weakness, in ignorance, inexperience, in difficult surroundings, grief, affliction and in moral fault.

Helping others is: time consuming (healing takes time, effort and work) it is emotionally draining, it can involve rejection, failure and personal hurt. No one should be left to bear their load alone.

Gal. 6:3 ³ For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself.

We all make mistakes, all of us, we all need each other, and how do you want your brother or sister to talk to you? We will have members from one time or another that will need help, remember our part in this is to restore. Help not police or judge or execute the brother. The right person is to help in the right way and not everyone needs to know. We will do it the way we want it done to us.

Dave Richards