

BEAR AND SHARE BURDENS

INTRODUCTION: In this final chapter, Paul addresses the importance of helping one another, especially those in need of spiritual restoration. He encourages believers to fulfill the law of Christ as they humbly demonstrate love to one another. He also emphasizes having the right attitude with a willingness to bear their own load.

Galatians 6:1-5

I. THE MINISTRY OF RESTORATION v.1

A. As those who are spiritual, we are to help a brother or sister who has sinned.

1. "Overtaken" implies being surprised or caught off guard by a lapse in judgement.
2. "*Trespass*" comes from the Greek word *paraptōma*, which means stepping off the right path, whether intentional or unintentional.
3. The Greek word for *restore* is *katartizo*, which refers to setting a broken bone or mending a torn fishing net.

B. We are to provide help with a spirit of gentleness.

1. The ones who are spiritual are the mature Spirit-filled believers.
Romans 8:5-6
2. This is an opportunity to demonstrate the fruit of the Spirit in our lives. *Galatians 3:1*
3. It also means that we avoid the condemning and legalistic mindset. *2 Timothy 2:23-26*

C. We are to be careful not to get caught up in the same temptation or sin.

1. Restorers can inadvertently be pulled into the same sin they are trying to help others overcome.
2. This is a reminder that even Spirit-filled people can fall if they aren't careful. *1 Corinthians 10:12*
3. We are to always lean on the leading of the Holy Spirit and partner with fellow believers. *Luke 12:12*

II. THE FULFILLMENT OF CHRIST'S LAW vv.2-3

A. Believers are told to bear the burdens of fellow believers which fulfills the law of Christ.

1. The Greek word for *burdens* is *baros*, which refers to heavy, crushing loads too big for one person to carry.
2. This goes beyond prayer to tangible emotional, financial, or physical help.
3. Fulfilling the law of Christ means we are demonstrating love through the service of others. *Galatians 5:14*

B. This requires us to set aside our own pride.

1. Thinking you are above certain tasks or people is a form of self-delusion. *John 13:14-15, Mark 9:35*
2. Recognizing that we are all nothing apart from Christ, levels the playing field. *John 15:5, Romans 12:4-5, 1 Corinthians 12:26*

3. Pride makes us too busy for others, while humility creates space for their burdens.

C. Conceit and an inflated self-image prevents believers from truly serving others.

1. A person who thinks he is better than others, separates himself from the community. *Hebrews 10:24-25*

2. When we feel superior, we feel entitled to be served rather than serve others. *Philippians 2:3-4*

3. We need to shift the focus from “how I look” to “how I can help”.
2 Corinthians 10:12, Philippians 2:8-9

III. THE STANDARD OF INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY vv. 4-5

A. Each person must test his own work rather than comparing themselves to others.

1. We are called to examine our own motives and actions before God’s standards.

2. Using others’ failures to make ourselves feel better is a false sense of holiness. *James 3:13 NLT*

3. Our spiritual walk is to be genuine and not just a show for others.

B. Proper joy comes from reflecting on one’s own faithful walk with God.

1. True boasting is found in the quiet confidence of obeying God’s specific call.

2. Focusing on your own work eliminates the need to compete with others.
3. Success is measured by faithfulness to God, not status in the church. *James 2:17-18*

C. While we share common burdens, each individual must bear his own load. v.5

1. The Greek word for *load* is *phortion*, which refers to a soldier's individual kit or pack that only they can carry.
2. This is a reminder that we will give an individual account to God for our own lives. *Romans 14:12, Esther 4:14*
3. While we help with crushing burdens, we cannot take over another person's basic responsibilities.

CONCLUSION: Paul challenges the church to be a community where we gently lift the crushing weights off our neighbors, fulfilling the "Law of Christ," while simultaneously refusing to compare ourselves to others. By balancing our duty to help the broken with the responsibility to carry our own "load" before God, we move away from legalistic pride and toward a Spirit-led life defined by humility and mutual support.