

BOOK OF GALATIANS
MINISTERING TO THE FALLEN
GALATIANS 6:1-5

Introduction

We can sum up the function of the Church in two words: *reconciliation* and *restoration*.

- 1) ***Reconciliation*** is our **ministry to fallen sinners!** (2 Cor. 5:18-20)
- 2) ***Restoration*** is our **ministry to fallen saints!** (Galatians 6:1-5)

Hymn writer Fanny Crosby wrote a great old hymn that we sing often entitled "*Rescue the Perishing*." We can see both ministries recorded in that song:

- a. "*Rescue the perishing, care for the dying*".
(That is *the ministry of reconciliation!*)
- b. "*Weep o'er the erring one, lift up the fallen*".
(That is *the ministry of restoration!*)

Listen to me, if you DON'T know the LORD , Satan's desire is to keep you entangled in your sin and keep you lost! He wants you to think that you're a special case and that there is no way out for you! But, there is a way out! Understand that **Christ came to set folks free from the bondage of their sin!** But Satan doesn't want you to be free! He wants you to remain entangled by your sin! He'll use all his tricks and wiles to deceive you into believing that there is no hope for you!

Don't fall for Satan's lies and deception! There is hope and help in Christ! *Romans 1:16 "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."*

If you DO know the LORD , Satan's desire is to re-entangle you in sin and the world so that you become ineffective for the LORD and stay ineffective as a Believer! In fact Satan wants you to sin so he can use your guilt against you by convincing you that you are no longer useful to the LORD. He wants to get you down and then stomp on you and keep you down and out of the race God has for you!

Again, don't fall for Satan's lies and deception!

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There is forgiveness of sin and restoration available through Christ Jesus!

1 John 1:9 "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Inevitably, when sin is present in the life of a child of God, discouragement will set in and one feels stuck in a rut. Someone defined the word "*rut*" as a grave with both ends knocked out! **Praise God though that in Jesus Christ we have access to His resurrection power to get up out of that grave, that rut, and move forward for the LORD!**

When Satan has deceived a Believer and entangled them in sin again, many times they need the help of fellow believers to find their way back!

How does the LORD want to use fellow Believers in this process? Well, let's look at some things laid out by the Apostle Paul here in *verses 1-5* and see what our part is in **MINISTERING TO THE FALLEN**.

Two weeks ago we saw this battle between *the flesh* and *the Spirit*. In *Galatians 5* Paul wrote about both the "*works of the flesh*" and the "*fruit of the Spirit*". The GENUINE *fruit of the Spirit* will only be seen in the life of a believer who is *walking in the Spirit!* But unfortunately, "*the works of the flesh*" (the fruit of our old sinful nature) will not only be seen in the lives of a lost man, but also in the lives of Believers who fail to "*walk in the Spirit*" as we are directed to in *verses 16 and 25!*

We all know by experience how that old nature will make its presence known! Again I draw your attention back to *Galatians 5:17 For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.*

So it is imperative that we *walk in the Spirit* so that we don't *fulfill the lust of the flesh!* *Vs 24* says that "*...they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts!*"! What does that even mean? That happened in Christ on the cross! When we believe He died for us, we die in Him!

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Romans 6:6 “Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.”

Romans 6:11 Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Before we were saved we were **slaves to our sinful nature!** We were **in sin’s bondage!** Now that we who are Believers are **saved and set free from the bondage we once knew,** we are now **free to serve Christ** and can now **choose to live for Christ!**

To **“reckon” oneself to be dead to sin means count it as being true because it is true!** We are now dead to sin and alive unto God! We need to walk in the life that we now have! Walk in the Spirit! That’s our responsibility as Believers—To be dead to that which was nailed to the cross and to walk in the resurrection life we have now received from our Savior!

Now as we make the transition to Galatians chapter 6, we see that there is a responsibility concerning fellow Believers as well.

**LET’S SEE THIS RESPONSIBILITY OF RESTORATION—
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Now obviously the **ultimate restoration** is done by Christ Himself!

But just as we have the blessed privilege to have a part in leading people to Christ (*The Ministry of Reconciliation 2 Corinthians 5:18-20*), we also have the blessed privilege to be apart of helping people back to Him! (*The Ministry Of Restoration*):

I. CONSIDER THE OBSERVATION HERE!

In *verse 1* Paul gives a **realistic hypothetical case** here. **It is realistic because, unfortunately, it does happen.** In fact it happens too often!

It’s **hypothetical** because **He’s not speaking about any particular case in which this has happened!** He’s talking about whenever any situation like this takes place.

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What is the case? When somebody has been ***overtaken in a fault!*** That word translated **“*fault*”** means ***a side-slip (lapse or deviation), i.e. (unintentional) error or (willful) transgression.***

It is a word that is used 23 times in the New Testament Scripture and is translated as trespass 9, offence 7, sin 3, fall 2, fault 2.

The idea here is NOT for us to be judge, jury, and executioner watching every move of those around us! Rather **it is for us to care by being invested in the lives of our brothers and sisters in Christ!** When we truly care for someone and they are in trouble, we notice it! And we desire to help them!

This ought to be especially true in the local Church!

We are a ***body*** that should care for the ***members!***

We are a ***family*** and should care for others as ***family!***

II. CONSIDER THE OFFENCE HERE!

This ***fault*** or ***sin*** would be **one that has become known or been revealed.** (i.e. It is no longer hidden!)

There are times when we **may successfully hide our sins from others,** but understand that **we can't hide them from God!** **And in many cases that hidden sin will eventually come to light for others to see!**

III. CONSIDER THE OBLIGATED HERE!

The Word says here that **“*YE WHICH ARE SPIRITUAL restore such a one*”**

What does that word SPIRITUAL mean?

It is talking about more than being SPIRIT INDWELT!

It is talking about someone who is WALKING IN THE SPIRIT!

(It is talking about someone who is NOT CARNAL!)

There are carnal believers but not carnal Christians!

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1 Corinthians 3:1-3 – “1 And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. 2 I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able. 3 For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?”

IV. CONSIDER THE OBJECTIVE HERE!

When the sins of others, especially a fellow Believer, comes to light...what are we to do as Spiritual Believers?

The Objective is to **RESTORE SUCH AN ONE!**

The Apostle Paul says here that **“ye which are Spiritual RESTORE such a one”** and then tells us **HOW to restore them** (“*restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted!*”)

Those involved in the **Ministry Of Restoration** must keep constant watch over their own lives! **There are many people who set out with the intentions of helping someone only to be brought down by them!**

Always remember, whether dealing with a lost sinner or a wayward saint, **it is often easier for them to bring you down than for you to lift them up! BE CAUTIOUS!!!**

We must also have the proper mindset when attempting to help a fallen brother! We are told do so **“in a Spirit of Meekness”** (which just so happens to be listed in the fruit of the Spirit)!

The spirit in which we restore a fallen brother or sister makes a vital difference. **Restoration must be done firmly but gently.** We're not putting bandages on people—we're setting broken emotional and spiritual "bones."

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The path to healing is often long and painful, requiring many difficult but necessary steps.

Well, if we are **NOT SPIRITUAL we aren't going to handle it right!** What do those who are **NOT SPIRITUAL** do?

- The Unspiritual may run and tell others what they've discovered...(*“Have I got a prayer request for you!”*)
- The Unspiritual may mock them or laugh at them in private or with others...(*“Just having some harmless fun!”*)
- The Unspiritual may slander them or run them in the ground to others...
- The Unspiritual may even judge someone's thoughts and motives as well as condemn them...
- The Unspiritual may look at them in their pride and think about how much of a better a Believer they are compared to this one that has fallen...
- Or, The Unspiritual may even just ignore the situation all together...

None of those are the proper responses! In fact **ANY such handling by us proves that WE ALSO ARE IN NEED OF HELP to get back where WE need to be—getting back to Christ likeness!**

The word **“restore”** literally means **“to mend”** or **“repair”**. It carries the idea of **“setting a broken bone or repairing a dislocated limb”**. In the context of this verse **“restore”** means **“to bring a person back to his former moral condition.”**

Sin is a breakdown in the machinery of one's life. It has to be repaired.

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When we find someone with a breakdown, **we need to do what is necessary to restore the person to good, godly running condition.**

Now understand that **depending on who they are and what they have done they may not be able to be fully restored!**

Christ can forgive any sin! But certain sins disqualify one from holding certain offices in the Church!

But it is our responsibility to rebuke, reprove and admonish those who have fallen into sin. Remember what James says in *James 5:19-20* 19 *Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; 20 Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.*

When a member of our faith family hurts...WE HURT!

We should want to be there for one another when trouble comes and to do what we can to help lighten the load.

We should want to **"bear one another's burdens"** with whatever a Brother or Sister in Christ is facing. We can face all kinds of burdens that have nothing to do with us having gone astray—financial burdens, physical burdens, family burdens, other burdens!

That is great, and we should have that mindset! But, when that brother or sister has **"fallen into sin"** the consequences of that sin is much more harmful than any other burden that they may face.

When the proper steps are taken and the *Ministry of Restoration* is carried out in the manner that God has prescribed then we will see great benefit! There is great benefit to the individual himself, there is great benefit to the Church itself, there is great benefit to those in that person's circle of influence! And finally, it fulfills the law of Christ!