

**Bearing One Another's Burdens**

Galatians 6:1 - 3

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**Restoring the Fallen Brother**

**Galatians 6:1a** (NASB)

Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, **restore such a one** . . .

- > **Caught** can be translated **seized**
- > **introduces a third class** more probable condition; i.e. this is likely to happen
- > Luther thinks some sin like this prompted false teachers to prescribe Torah observance
- > **The answer is restoration for the sinner, not law works for the church!**

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**The Need for Gentleness and Being Circumspect**

**Galatians 6:1 b** (NASB)

. . . **in a spirit of gentleness**; each one looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted.

- > **Gentleness** is a fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:23)
- > Someone else's failure should not give us an attitude of superiority
- > The temptation is to pride which can lead to a fall
- > **tempted** here means **pressured** which implies pressured to become self-righteous (Gal. 2:14, 15)

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### The Law of Christ

**Galatians 6:2** (NASB)

Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ.

- > All Christians have burdens
- > Bear+is in the imperative in the Greek
- > Christ is the true law-giver of the New Covenant
- > Christian love is to always think of others in the body of Christ
- > Christ cares for His own, we should care for those who are Christ's (1Peter 5:7)

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### An Inflated Opinion of Self

**Galatians 6:3** (NASB)

For if anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself.

- > The law of Christ mitigates against self-deception and pride
- > Thinking of self first means not loving others as the law of Christ commands
- > Self-esteem is not a Christian virtue

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### Implications and Applications

- > The spiritual ones+are not a few elite Christians
- > We must restore repentant sinners
- > The law of Christ is God's law of love
- > To not think highly of ourselves requires sober-minded judgment

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%Spiritual ones+are recipients  
of grace through faith

**1Corinthians 14:37** (NASB)

If anyone thinks he is a prophet or spiritual, let him recognize that the things which I write to you are the Lord's commandment.

- > Elitists in Corinth thought they were the spiritual ones
- > Paul speaks for God as an ordained apostle
- > In Galatians 3:14, those who have received the Spirit by faith are the blessed spiritual ones

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Restoring Repentant Sinners

**2Corinthians 2:6, 7** (NASB)

Sufficient for such a one is this punishment which was inflicted by the majority, so that on the contrary you should rather forgive and comfort him, otherwise such a one might be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow.

%have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance.+ (Luke 5:32)

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The Law of Christ

**John 15:12** (NASB)

This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you.

- > Jesus is God's law-giver
- > Christ's apostles are sent by Him with His authority
- > The teachings of Christ and His apostles are God's law which is binding on the church
- > The command to love summarizes the law of Christ

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Do Not Think Too Highly of Self

**1Corinthians 12:21, 22** (NASB)

And the eye cannot say to the hand, **“I have no need of you;”** or again the head to the feet, **“I have no need of you.”** On the contrary, it is much truer that the members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary;

- > Disregard for the Lord's flock is evidence of too high of an opinion of one's self
- > We are to be sober minded in this regard (Rom. 12:3)

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