

Galatians 6:2-5

We don't live the Christian life in a vacuum—part 2

Part 1—The importance of loving one another actively—6:2

- 1) Manward—6:2a ² *Bear* [pres. act. impv. βασιτάζω] *the heavy burdens* [βάρος] *of one another*,
 - a) The overwhelming, oppressive burdens, including dealing with overwhelming temptation and sin.
- 2) Godward—6:2b *and in this way* (completely) *fulfill* [aor. act. impv. ἀναπληρώω] *the law of Christ*.
 - a) This is a practical demonstration of all that Jesus taught, especially love
 - b) Also referred to as the law of the Spirit of life—Romans 8:2
 - c) Cf. John 13:34; 1st John 4:21

Part 2—The explanation behind the commands for objective self-examination—6:3-5

- 1) Self-deception is dangerous—6:3
 - a) If...—³ *For* [γράφ] *if* [εἰ 1st class condition, assumed true for sake of argument] *anyone is presuming* [pres. act. ind. δοκέω] *himself to be something* (special), *when he is nothing*,
 - i) Subjective thoughts or fantasies of himself
 - ii) Still, believers are made in the image of God (cf. James 3:9)
 - b) Then—*he is deceiving* [pres. act. ind. φρεναπατάω] *himself*.
 - i) Cf. deception in Titus 1:10 φρεναπάτης
 - c) Self-importance based on self-ignorance is the grand hindrance to the duty of mutual burden-bearing. ... This self-conceited and in result self-duped man is incapable of bear other's burdens, and is insensible to the obligation. (Eadie, 437-438)
- 2) Self-examination is demanded—6:4 (2 aspects)
 - a) Positive contrast: a self-critical spirit is required—⁴ *But let each one examine* [pres. act. impv. δοκιμάζω] *his own work*,
 - i) Determine the genuineness of what is accomplished in and through your own life (cf. works in Ephesians 2:8-10)
 - ii) Similar to the world's phrase "know yourself"
 - iii) This self-criticism is a sign of humility and maturity.
 - b) Negative: a non-competitive spirit is required—*and then he will have a cause for boasting* [καύχημα] *in* [εἰς] (with regard to) *himself alone and not in another*.
 - i) We don't need to compare our spiritual progress with other believers
 - (1) We think we are doing better
 - (2) We think we are doing worse
 - ii) Appropriate self-examination leads to us finding not only faults, frailties, and failures but also germs of grace and goodness. (Eadie)
- 3) Self-discipline is to be maintained—6:5 ⁵ *For each one will bear* [fut. act. ind. βασιτάζω] *his own* (emphatic) *load* [φορτίον].

- a) These are the normal heavy responsibilities through the course of every day life, like a backpack for a soldier or the cargo of a ship (cf. Acts 27:10). Jesus' burden is light—Matthew 11:30
- b) This includes our own sins that we struggle with.
- c) It also includes our own burden at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

Take-home truth: Deal with your struggling fellow-believer with firmness, grace, and gentleness.

Next time: Galatians 6:6-10