

## Galatians 6:1

### We don't live the Christian life in a vacuum—part 1

#### **Part 1—What is the possible situation?** *even if a person is discovered in some trespass,*

- 1) Define “even if”: 3<sup>rd</sup> class condition, a possible situation
- 2) Define discovered [aor. pass. subj. προλαμβάνω]: a Christian is found to be in the position of having yielded to temptation regarding a particular trespass
- 3) Define trespass [παράπτωμα]: a false step in contrast to a true step, or perhaps contrasted with “keeping in step with the Spirit” in 5:25
- 4) Too often we do one of the following regarding the sins of others:
  - a) We ignore it because we lack the **courage** to address it. *I'm not touching that!*
  - b) We ignore it or are intimidated by it because we lack the **knowledge** to address it. *Uh ... Okay, now what?*
  - c) We rejoice that their sin is exposed. *Hah, I knew that's what they were like! Now they'll get what they deserve.*
  - d) We simply diagnose it but don't try to fix it. *Oh, bet that hurts.*
  - e) We simply tell others about it but don't try to fix it. *Did you hear ...?*
  - f) We simply scold them but don't try to fix it. *You shouldn't have ....*

#### **Part 2—What are they (plural) to do?** *restore such a one*

- 1) What does it mean to restore? [pres. act. impv. καταρτίζω]
  - a) Restore to a state of usefulness; to reintegrate fully
  - b) Illustrated from:
    - i) Medical—mixing medicines, setting a broken bone or a dislocated joint
    - ii) A sailor outfitting his boat
    - iii) A fisherman mending his nets (Matthew 4:21)
    - iv) A mason rebuilding a wall (Ezra 4:12-13)
    - v) Politicians restoring unity
- 2) They are to restore while doing what individually (singular)? *while paying close attention to* [pres. act. ptc. σκοπέω] *yourself*,
  - a) Diligent observation of your own weaknesses toward sin
  - b) Why is this important? *so that you* (emphatic) *are not tempted* [aor. pass. subj. πειράζω] *also*.
    - i) Cf. 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 10:12
- 3) How are they to do this? *in a spirit of gentleness* [πραΰτης],
  - a) Part of the fruit of the Spirit (5:23); a lack of self-assertiveness, meekness, submissiveness. The opposite of harshness.
  - b) This is how Paul dealt with people (cf. 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 4:21)
  - c) Being harsh or judgmental is a sign of spiritual immaturity.

#### **Part 3—Who is to do this restoration?**

- 1) Genuine Christians—<sup>1</sup> *Brothers*,
- 2) Spirit-led (all) Christians—**you<sup>pl</sup>** (emphatic) *who are spiritual*
  - a) You received the Spirit—3:2

- b) You began in the Spirit—3:3
- c) God supplies the Spirit to you—3:5
- d) You received the promise of the Spirit through faith—3:14
- e) God the Father sent the Spirit into your hearts—4:6
- f) Through the Spirit you eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness—5:5
- g) You are led by the Spirit—5:18
- h) You possess the fruit of the Spirit—5:22-23
- i) You live in the Spirit—5:25

**Part 4—Dealing with the sins of others: (at least 5 different classes of sinful behavior)**

**1) Relatively minor faults**

- a) We are encouraged to overlook these. (Proverbs 10:12; 19:11; First Peter 4:8)

**2) Unverifiable sins**

- a) Only one church member in addition to the offender knows these.
- b) These should be left with God and not revealed to anyone else. (Deuteronomy 19:15; Proverbs 25:8-10)
- c) Exceptions to this rule concerning silence include the reporting of criminal behavior and/or behavior that poses a danger to others.
- d) In all situations involving unverifiable sins, the individual in question is considered innocent until proven guilty.

**3) Personal offenses**

- a) By which one church member causes harm to another church member.
- b) In these situations, Matthew 18:15-17 should be closely followed.

**4) Public sinful behavior**

- a) These cause harm to the unity, doctrinal integrity, purity, or reputation of the church as a whole.
- b) This includes, but is not limited to:
  - i) Teaching what is contrary to the Scriptures as understood in our doctrinal statement, divisiveness, contentiousness, gossip, slander of the church or its leaders, insubordination, sexual immorality, drunkenness, covetousness, theft, dishonesty, outbursts of anger or fighting, foul language, willful failure to provide for one's family, wrongful divorce or remarriage, breach of public trust or contract.
- c) These sins may normally be addressed on a scale from the most gentle to the most direct, though not all situations must be addressed in this order.
  - i) Be watchful (Acts 20:28-31; Hebrews 12:14-16)
  - ii) Correct through teaching (2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 2:24-26; Titus 1:9)
  - iii) Plead with the offender (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 1:10-11; Philippians 4:2-3)
  - iv) Warn them of consequences (1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 5:14; 2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians 3:14-15; Titus 3:10-11)
  - v) Rebuke them (Galatians 2:11-14; 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 5:19-20; Titus 1:13)
  - vi) Silence them (Titus 1:9-11)
- d) Shame them through social avoidance (2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians 3:6-15)

**5) Insufferable wickedness**

- a) These situations differ from those under *Public Sinful Behavior* in matter of **degree** rather than **type**.
- b) These situations call for immediate expulsion from church membership.
- c) These situations include:
  - i) Unrepentant offenders after confrontation (Matthew 18:17)
  - ii) Gross offenders (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 5, especially 5:5, 11, 13)
- d) Offenders who are known for their wickedness (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 5:11-13; 6:9-10; Galatians 5:19-21; Titus 1:16; 1<sup>st</sup> John 1:5-6; 2:3-4; 3:9-10; 2<sup>nd</sup> John 1:9-11)

**Take-home truth:** Take sin seriously because you take God seriously.

**Next time:** Galatians 6:2-5