

Title: Restoring, Bearing, Examining

Text: Galatians 6:1-5

Main Idea: Walking in the Spirit means helping others in the body of Christ.

Division Statements:

1. We are to bear one another's burdens, including the burden of sin (vv. 1-2).

The phrase "You who are spiritual" does not refer to any kind of requisite Christian maturity level, rather it refers to what Paul has just been discussing, namely those who are "walking in the Spirit" whether they are brand new one day old Christians or have been Christians 60 years. "Burden" (βάρη) - refers to a weight or heavy load, in this case the weight of one's sin. "Bear" means to take up and carry. In other words to help the person through the sin problem and "restore such a one" back to walking in the Spirit rather than the flesh. The "law of Christ" is the law of love (5:14).

2. We are to bear one another's burdens in a spirit of humility (v. 3).

This is inferred from the "spirit of gentleness" that is required in restoring a sinning brother and the need to keep from falling yourself. It is brought home powerfully in verse 3. "Nothing" (μηδέν) when used in reference to a person means "a nobody." The simple truth is that all we have and all we are we owe to God alone. As 1 Corinthians 4:7 says, "For who makes you differ from another? And what do you have that you did not receive? Now if you did indeed receive *it*, why do you boast as if you had not received it?" Therefore, apart from His gives, including the fruit of the Spirit and a heart to "walk in the Spirit" we are, spiritually speaking, complete "nobodies."

3. We are to examine ourselves and fulfill our ministry (vv. 4-5).

Verse five at first seems a contradiction to verse 2, until we realize that a different word for "load" is being used than the previous word for "burden." φορτίον refers not to difficulties or hardships per se but to the routine demands and obligations of one's life (i.e. the practical demands of one's work, responsibilities due to position, or duties with regard to discipleship in the spiritual realm). In this context, it refers to the ministry that God has gifted you with and placed you in the body of Christ to fulfill. All of us have such a ministry (e.g. Rom. 12:4-8), and we must pursue it according to the commands given here.

Bridging From Text To Sermon

Textual Idea: Paul continues to show us practically how to walk in the Spirit within the body of Christ.

Sermon Proposition: Walking in the Spirit means helping others in the body of Christ.

Interrogative: How am I to help others in the body of Christ?

Transition: God gives us three commands in this text for helping others in the body of Christ.

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