

**“The Application of Grace”****Galatians 5-6****Part 8**

**Introduction:** Last week in our study we finished Galatians 5 where we looked at the Fruit of the Spirit. Keep in mind that the chapter break is not inspired and for that reason we can know that Paul is continuing with the same thought as we move into Galatians 6. In this chapter Paul will consider what the believer's life will look like as he or she is controlled by the Holy Spirit. This life will be marked by sacrificial service to others. This is what is known as the Law of Christ. In the section we are stepping into Paul will speak of sacrificial service to 4 groups of people. The sinning believer, the burdened believer, the pastors and teachers, and all other people.

➤ **Fulfilling the Law of Jesus Christ**

**1. Serving the sinning brother.**

**Notice Galatians 6:1**

Here Paul gives a hypothetical situation. He says that if a believer is overtaken in a fault those who are spiritual (those who are walking in the Spirit) are supposed to step up and restore this individual and bring them back into fellowship. Now there are several points to consider here.

First of all, we need to notice that this believer has been “overtaken by a fault” which has the idea that he or she was running from sin, but sin was faster and overtook them. They made the choice to give in to the temptation, but they hate the fact that they have this weakness. This person is completely different than the people Paul mentioned in Galatians 5.

**Galatians 5:19-21**

*<sup>19</sup> Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,*

*<sup>20</sup> Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,*

*<sup>21</sup> Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.*

Let us notice another passage.

**1 Corinthians 6:9-11**

<sup>9</sup> *Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,*

<sup>10</sup> *Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.*

<sup>11</sup> *And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.*

In these two passages these people chose to live in these sins but in Galatians 6:1 this person is “overtaken” meaning that he did not want to be, but his weakness caused him to give in. How do we treat the believer that is “overtaken?” In many churches this believer would be condemned and shamed to the point that they would leave because they would not feel wanted. Many churches that are legalistic would be like the religious leaders of Jesus’ day.

### **John 8:3-5**

<sup>3</sup> *And the scribes and Pharisees brought unto him a woman taken in adultery; and when they had set her in the midst,*

<sup>4</sup> *They say unto him, Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act.*

<sup>5</sup> *Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned: but what sayest thou?*

This is not the way that we are supposed to treat the believer who has been “overtaken” but instead we are to restore this person. Let us notice what Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount.

### **Matthew 7:1-5**

*Judge not, that ye be not judged.*

<sup>2</sup> *For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.*

<sup>3</sup> *And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?*

<sup>4</sup> *Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye?*

*<sup>5</sup>Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye.*

In this text Jesus spoke these Words against the religious leaders who were constantly judging others while they themselves had the terrible sin of legalism in their own lives. He says that our lives need to be in order before we can help someone else. The point I want to consider is that He refers to the sin in the believer's life as a splinter. I believe this is very important. If we were going to pull a splinter from someone's eye, we would be very careful and extremely gentle.

**Notice Galatians 6:1 again.**

We are to restore them in the spirit of meekness. Let us remember the definition of meekness. Meekness refers to a humble gentle attitude that expresses itself in a soft manner. Like removing a splinter from the eye. We must also be very careful that we do not get caught up in temptation. What would the temptation be? It would be the temptation to see ourselves as better than the believer overtaken by the sin. There is always this danger in our lives but especially when we are dealing with a sinning brother or sister. What we need to know is that we too have the potential to fall into sin. There is nothing good in our flesh and we still have the sin nature. The good that is seen in our lives is from the Holy Spirit living the life of Jesus Christ in us. But we have the potential of falling deep into sin and therefore we must be very careful.

**1 Corinthians 10:7-12**

*<sup>7</sup>Neither be ye idolaters, as were some of them; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.*

*<sup>8</sup>Neither let us commit fornication, as some of them committed, and fell in one day three and twenty thousand.*

*<sup>9</sup>Neither let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed of serpents.*

*<sup>10</sup>Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer.*

*<sup>11</sup>Now all these things happened unto them for examples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.*

*<sup>12</sup>Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.*

**2. Serving the burdened brother.**

**Notice Galatians 6:2**

This verse connects with the first verse. In verse 1 we are to lift up the fallen believer and here we are to hold up the weaker brother. The man in verse 1 fell to sin due to a weakness and as we pick him up, we are not to abandon him, but we are to be there along side of him to hold him up and help him to work through the weakness. The emphasis on one another is in contrast to a life of selfishness where we think only of ourselves. The mature believer is to be there to help the weak believer as he or she struggles with besetting sin.

**Notice Galatians 6:2 again.**

As we hold up the weaker brother, we are then fulfilling the Law of Christ. This is interesting when we consider that these believers were set on keeping THE LAW, so Paul tells them if they are so set on keeping a law then focus upon the Law of Christ. What is the Law of Christ? It is to love one another.

**John 13:34-35**

*<sup>34</sup>A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.*

*<sup>35</sup>By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.*

This is the opposite of what the legalist does. Notice what Jesus said to the religious leaders concerning their legalism.

**Luke 11:46**

*<sup>46</sup>And he said, Woe unto you also, ye lawyers! for ye lade men with burdens grievous to be borne, and ye yourselves touch not the burdens with one of your fingers.*

Notice the words of MacArthur on bearing one another's burdens.

*"Falling to the flesh is a result of an unbearable burden of temptation. The temptation load gets so heavy you just fall. You've got to help them carry it or else they may fall again and again and again. Have I any need to remind you that sin likes to have you alone? And the more alone you are the more tempted you are? And the more isolated you are the more tempted you are? And have you noticed that when you are among other believers and when you're in a strong Christian family or in a strong Christian relationship, how you feel the strength of that relationship? How you feel the strength of that accountability in your life? We need to bear one another's burdens. We don't do well alone at all."*

**Notice Galatians 6:3**

This verse is addressed to people who refuse to help the weak believer, and they refuse because they believe they are too good to stoop to their level. There are people who will do nothing but look down their nose at someone who struggles with the burden of temptation. They do not understand that if it were not for the grace of God the roles would be reversed. They could just as easily be the one in need of a burden bearer to help them. Notice the words of Donald Campbell.

*"Something must be laid aside if a believer is to be a burden bearer and that is conceit, an attitude that breeds intolerance of error in others and causes one to think he is above failure."*

So, what is the cause of this attitude in some believers? They compare themselves to the burdened believer and see themselves on a higher level because they do not have the same struggle. What is the remedy for this?

#### **Notice Galatians 6:4**

The idea here is that we are to examine our own lives to keep us from being critical and to keep us humble when dealing with those who are weak. There is not one of us who does not have weaknesses and temptations that we deal with. The flesh loves to think he is something when actually he is nothing. The flesh will have us measure ourselves spiritually by comparing ourselves to someone who has fallen into sin. There is no standard of measure given in this verse but since we are to fulfill the Law of Jesus Christ, we can understand that our lives are to be measured against the life of Jesus.

The flesh is very good at putting the lives of others under a microscope because there are always flaws to find. But we are to put our own lives under the microscope of Jesus Christ and we will find there are flaws there also. There should also be signs of growth and that is a cause for rejoicing but not in a sinful way. Instead, we rejoice in Jesus Christ for He is the source of all spiritual growth.

#### **Notice Galatians 6:5**

This is not a contradiction of verse 2 where we were commanded to bear one another's burdens. This is a reminder that we all have a burden to bear that no one can assist with. This is bearing our own responsibility when we stand before the judgment seat of Christ.

#### **2 Corinthians 5:10**

*<sup>10</sup>For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.*

#### **Romans 14:10-12**

*<sup>10</sup> But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.*

*<sup>11</sup> For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.*

*<sup>12</sup> So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.*

**Conclusion:**

When we are filled with the Spirit our lives will be all about edifying the body of Jesus Christ.

**Philippians 2:1-5**

*If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies,*

*<sup>2</sup> Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.*

*<sup>3</sup> Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.*

*<sup>4</sup> Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.*

*<sup>5</sup> Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:*