

Restore Believers to Fellowship

Galatians 6:1-10



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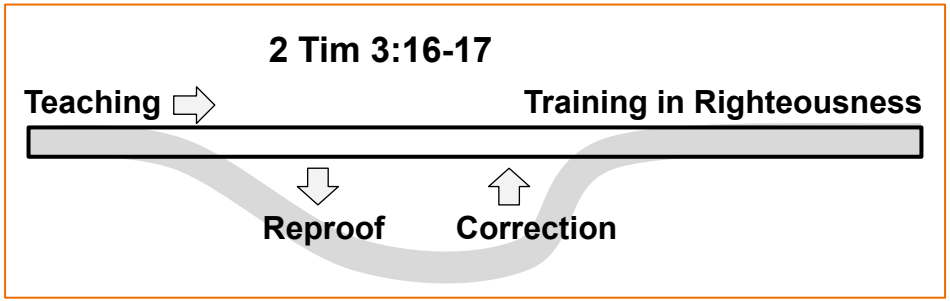
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Restore an erring brother (6:1)

- "**brethren**" ~ conveyed Paul's love and care for fellow members of the household of faith.
- "**if anyone is caught in any trespass**" ~ providing a general principle for how believers should respond to erring believers.
- "**caught**" (*prolambanō*) ~ taken by surprise unexpectedly.
- "**trespass**" (*paraptōma*) ~ a lapse or misstep which takes a person off the path of righteousness.
- "**you who are spiritual**" (*pneumatikos*) ~ "Spirit-like, pertaining to the influence and control of the Holy Spirit."

Restore an erring brother (6:1)

- "**restore such a one**" (*katartizō*, present imperative) ~ " repair what has been broken or torn" which involves bringing an erring brother back onto the path of a Spirit-led life.
- The Word of God is the most effective means of doing this.
- The goal should always be restoration accomplished "**in a spirit of gentleness**."
- "**each one looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted**" ~ watch carefully so as not to stray from the path of righteousness yourself.



Bear one another's burdens (6:2)

- "**bear** one another's burdens" (*bastazō*) ~ to take up, raise, and lift so as to carry in one's arms.
- "**burdens**" (*baros*) ~ heavy weights that are becoming too difficult for a person to carry on his own.
- "**law of Christ**" ~ the rule of ***love*** Jesus gave to His followers (John 13:34-35), generated in the life of a believer by the indwelling Holy Spirit (Gal 5:22).
- Believers are to help carry each other's burdens, but not to take on the whole burden. Those who stray from the right path should not be shielded from all the consequences of their choices.

Avoid conceit and self-deception (6:3)

- Paul had listed three sins of the flesh that were an issue in Galatia, and the first of them was “empty glorying” or boastful conceit (5:26). He will discuss that attitude here.
- “**if anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing**” ~ an inflated opinion of one’s own worth in comparison to others.
- “**thinks**” (*dokeō*) ~ “to seem, appear, or have a reputation.” One who wishes to appear to be something he is not.
- “**deceives himself**” (*phrenapataō*) ~ literally, “deluding or misleading the mind,” resulting in an unrealistic mental picture of himself by measuring his worth in comparison to his perception of others.

Examine one's own life (6:4-5)



- The antidote to conceit and self-deception is realistic self-examination under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
- "**examine**" (*dokimazō*, present imperative) ~ "to approve only after careful testing," which commands constant examination of one's own work apart from comparison to others.
- "**reason for boasting**" (*kauchēma*) ~ "a basis for glorying or exaltation," but "**in regard to himself alone**" (cf. 2 Cor 10:12).
- "**each one will bear his own load**" ~ God does not judge a person by the standard of others' conduct.

Return to full fellowship (6:6)

- In the Greek text the present imperative verb ***koinōneō*** appears first for emphasis. It is often translated “to participate with” or “to fellowship with.”
- Paul encouraged the restored believer to return to full fellowship “**in all good**” (*literally*).
- “**the one who is taught the word**” (*katēcheō*) ~ “to inform by word of mouth,” describing the method used for restoration.
- The key message of this verse is the importance of participating in common fellowship with others in the body of Christ.



We reap what we sow (6:7)

- "**Do not be deceived**" (*planaō*) ~ "to be led astray from the right path."
- "**God is not mocked**" ~ God's universal principles cannot be disregarded without suffering severe consequences.
- "**whatever a man sows, this he will also reap**" ~ this fixed law of the harvest had several important implications:
  - the farmer will always reap the same ***kind*** of product that was planted.
  - the farmer will reap a greater ***quantity*** of product than was planted.



We reap what we sow (6:8)

- "**the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption**" ~ flesh begets more flesh, and because the fallen sin nature is corrupt, the only result that can be produced is "**corruption**" (*phthora*), decay, ruin, or depravity.
- "**the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life**" ~ Sowing to the Spirit is "walking by the Spirit" (5:16) and being "led by the Spirit" (5:18). The spiritual person reaps a spiritual harvest from the work of the Spirit in his life.

Two natures beat within my breast: One is foul, the other blest;
The one I love, the one I hate; The one I feed will dominate.

Let us not lose heart (6:9-10)

- The farmer will always reap much ***later*** and in a different season than the time of planting. The law of the harvest requires patience and perseverance in order to wait for the expected results.
- "**grow weary**" or exhausted in trying to continually "**do good**." "**lose heart**" or become discouraged by the lack of results.
- Just as the harvest will arrive "**in due time**," believers can trust that God will give results in His perfect time.
- "**do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith**."



Summary

- Those who are “led by the Spirit” are to bring others back onto the path of the Spirit-led life, and one of the most effective ways for accomplishing that is through the ministry of the Word of God.
- The goal of restoration through God’s Word is a return to vital fellowship within the body of Christ.
- Paul commanded believers to examine their own work in regard to themselves alone, and not in regard to others. God does not judge believers by comparing them with others.
- Even though the Spirit-led life can be exhausting or discouraging at times, the law of the harvest guarantees a spiritual result in due season. Keep doing good to everyone, especially fellow believers.