

Bringing back the Backslider

Galatians 6:1-5

1 **Brethren**, even if a man is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, lest you too be tempted. 2 **Bear** one another's **burdens**, and thus fulfill the law of Christ. 3 For if anyone **thinks** he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself. 4 But let each one examine his own work, and then he will have reason for boasting in regard to himself alone, and not in regard to another. 5 For each one shall **bear** his own **load**.

Brethren- *Adelphos* – tender term at beginning & end of chapter –

assurance of love after chastening – to whole church- *we all in it together*.

2) to **Bear** is to take, lift, carry away burdens- *Burden* is a weight, trouble, heaviness, moral failing *assumes we all have them*. Jesus bore our sins on the cross—so we are to bear one another's-

Don't shoot the wounded Chuck Girard. *Don't shoot the wounded, they need us more than ever They need our love no matter what it is they've done Sometimes we just condemn them, And don't take time to hear their story Don't shoot the wounded, someday you might be one*

Law of Jesus is love 'for God so loved the world...' When betrayed or sinned against we want to retaliate, put them in their place.. *Jesus kissed Judas*

3) **Think** we better than we are; stronger, smarter, talented, spiritual. Older we get the more reality sinks in as God shows truth of what I think & what I am. *When we see others below us, it is opposite of bearing their burden.*

But Phil 2:3-8 *Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but w/ humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself; 4 do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. 5 Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality w/ God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, & being made in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.*

5) We all have our own *burden* or *load* to bear--some heavier than others. God only gives us walk we can handle, no more, no less, so in faith we deal w/ it & not give up. The load is the obligations God places on us.

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No contradiction w/ vs 2 *baros* is weight, heavy load, vs 5 *phortion* is backpack. *Baros* too heavy for bro/sis to carry. *Phortion* own load God expects us to carry.

Remember losing something then finding it—wallet, keys, Bible—Great joy when found. **Jesus parable Lk 15** lost sheep—leaves 99 goes after 1- finds it, rejoices, tells neighbors to rejoice w/ him. It's not about a lost sheep!

Woman w/ 10 silver **coins** & losses one, searches diligently & finds it, calls neighbors to rejoice w/ her. It's not about a lost coin! **Prodigal** son leaves home, squanders his inheritance, comes to his senses, returns home, father embraces him throws a party makes merry '*my son was lost & now he is found, he was dead & now alive*. It is all about lost sons & daughters--- If rejoicing over a sheep or a silver coin how much more over the return of sinners back to the Fathers house.

7 "I tell you that in the same way, there is more joy in heaven, in the presence of the angels over one sinner who repents, than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

Paul has been ruthless in calling out the false teachers & pointing out their flawed doctrine that nullifies God's grace. Creeping into churches of Galatia preaching theology of law for salvation. Paul was harsh w/ his converts for entertaining this false teaching & some fell for it. Foolish Galatians, bewitched, I fear I wasted my time on you, believed in vain, fallen from grace, severed from Christ.

After he got their attention, explaining the danger they were in by going along w/ this teaching that---fallen from grace—Christ, no effect for you.

He now shows his soft side & shepherd's heart for those wandering away from the faith.

Gal 6:1 Brethren, even if a man is caught/overtaken/overcome in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, lest you too be tempted.

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We are told **What** to do when a believer falls-backslides into sin. **Who** is to bring them back. And **how** it's done. *James 3:2 For we all stumble in many ways. If anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to bridle the whole body as well.*

No one is perfect except Jesus & Paul says we all stumble in many ways & because of that we should have *empathy* for struggling believers (Old age can make porcupine Christians)

What about those who not only stumble but stumble & fall away?

Caught-trespass - to fall beside--a lapse in your witness--deviate from right path--a side-slip-unintentional or willful--they fall & you detect it--even surprise them. Bruce girly mag-Mike & Greg

First what to do....*restore* – *kat-ar-tid'-zo* – repair thoroughly, mend completely, restore to former condition. *Surfboard restoration video*

We are called to action when one of our own falls--not act like the Priest or Levite who ignored & play dumb to the situation *Lk 10:30-37*. We are to take steps, as the shepherd w/ lost sheep or woman w/ lost coin.

Don't you be cruel—*they getting what deserve, how could they, it figures they were weird--gossip*—feel self righteous as Pharisees.

Woman caught in adultery John 8:3-

We are not to call the prayer chain or bring it up in prayer meeting about so & so in sin—that's gossip using prayer as excuse.

Luke 18:11-14 "The Pharisee stood & was praying thus to himself, 'God, I thank Thee that I am not like other people: swindlers, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax-gatherer. 'I fast twice a week; I pay tithes of all that I get.' "But the tax-gatherer, standing some distance away, was even unwilling to lift up his eyes to heaven, but was beating his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, the sinner!' "I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for those who exalts himself shall be humbled, but he who humbles himself shall be exalted."

But we are to *restore* him, set him back on the right path. Grk *kat-ar-tid'-zo* a medical term for setting a bone. It is applied to the disciples in *Mark 1:19* who were mending nets (cleaning, mending & folding-*overhauling*)

Martin Luther 'run unto him, and reaching out your hand, raise him up again, comfort him w/ sweet words and embrace him w/ motherly arms.

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After parable of lost sheep, Jesus tells his disciples how to deal w/ a sinning brother. **Matt 18:15** "And if your brother sins, go and **reprove** him in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother.

KJV 'tell him his fault' to convict & bring to light & shame, call to account, demand an explanation. If they don't listen apply more pressure—

David/Nathan 2 Sam 12:7 *Thou art the man* Ps 32; 51

Who is to do it – *you who are spiritual* – Paul says mature believers – those who walk in the Spirit & display fruit of the spirit-**Love**.

Rom 15:1 *Now we who are strong ought to bear the weaknesses of those without strength and not just please ourselves. 2 Cor 5:20.... we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were entreating through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.*

We're not to expose a person's sin to others but help **cover** & restore. **Prov 17:9** *He who covers a transgression seeks love, but he who repeats a matter separates intimate friends.*

Noah - **Gen 9:22-23** *And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brothers outside. 23 But Shem and Japheth took a garment and laid it upon both their shoulders and walked backward and covered the nakedness of their father; and their faces were turned away, so that they did not see their father's nakedness. God judged him for his actions*

How it should be done – *'in spirit of gentleness...a fruit of the spirit* 5:23 *Watch out lest you be tempted.* Gentleness is born out of our own sense of weakness & pull toward sin. To feel superior sets us up for a fall. **Heb 2:18** *For since He Himself was tempted in that which He has suffered, He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted.* **Heb 4:15** *For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize w/ our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet w/o sin.* **1 Pet 4:8** *Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins.*

Peter knew this 1st hand as one who had been restored —John 18
1Boasted in his ability-*I'll not deny you* **2Slept** when should be praying
3Flesh to accomplish spiritual task-Jesus said **cross** Peter heard **sword**.
4Followed from afar. **5Warming** himself at fires of enemy. **6Denied** Lord

Jesus dealt in love-warned him, told him to pray, said I will pray for you, tell Peter also I have Risen. He & John ran to tomb together—John took him in after denial.

James 5:19-20 *My brethren, if any among you strays from the truth, and one turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death, and will cover a multitude of sins.*