

I. Introduction: Are you spiritually mature?

II. Restore your sinning brother. v. 1

- A. Someone has been caught in a trespass. 5:17,19-21 Heb. 3:13**
- 1. As fellow strugglers we should have compassion upon those who have been caught. 1 Co. 10:12 Luke 10:25ff**
 - 2. It is important to remember that the trespass is against God, especially when you also are affected. Ps. 51:4**
 - 3. The sins which we must confront are those which endanger the soul of our brother or sister. Js. 5:20 1 Pet. 4:8 Pr. 19:11**
 - 4. We are to go directly to him before involving others (gossip/slander). Mt. 18:15**
- B. This duty falls upon those who are spiritual.**
- 1. Because every believer is indwelt by the Spirit, each of us has the duty to confront a wayward brother. 3:2,14 5:16ff Ro. 8:9ff 15:14 1 Co. 6:19 Mt. 18:15ff**
 - 2. It is vital that you not confront your brother in a fleshly way! 5:19-21,15,26 Rom. 12:17-21**
 - 3. How can you overcome your fleshly attitudes? 5:25 Eph. 4:31-32 Mt. 18:21-35**
 - 4. Be sure that you are walking in step with the Spirit, bearing His fruit. 5:16,22-23**
 - 5. If your frame of mind is fleshly and not spiritual you are in no position to correct anyone! First you need to get the log out of your own eye. Mt. 7:1-5**
- C. Your goal is to restore your wayward brother to God.**
- 1. This is in stark contrast to the attitude of pride and competitiveness against which Paul warns in the previous verse. 5:26**
 - 2. To restore is to repair or make complete. Mt. 4:21 18:15**
 - 3. The gospel restores wayward sinners to God. Isa. 55:6-7 1 Jo. 1:8-10**
 - 4. The hope is that this person will be fully restored to fellowship and service. Eph. 4:12 2 Co. 2:6-8**
 - 5. What should be done if the wayward brother refuses to be restored? Mt. 18:15-20 2 Th. 3:6,14 1 Co. 5:1ff**
- D. It is vital that your manner of confrontation be gentle. 5:23 Eph. 4:2 2 Ti. 2:24-26**
- 1. Many confront the sins of others harshly. 5:26 Jo. 8:1ff**
 - 2. When restoring others, remember how hard it is for all of us to receive correction.**
 - 3. Your gentleness should be motivated by humility. 1 Tim. 1:15-16**
 - 4. Prepare and pray before you go. Pr. 21:5**
 - 5. Go as personally as possible.**
 - 6. Offer love and comfort to the repentant sinner. 2 Co. 2:7-8**
- E. Look to yourself so that you too will not be tempted. 1 Co. 10:12**
- 1. You may be tempted to deal with the sins of others in a fleshly way. 5:26 Mt. 7:1-5 Rom. 12:17-21 Lev. 19:17 Pr. 27:6 20:19**
 - 2. Confronting sin is a risky business.**
 - 3. How do you respond when others seek to restore you? Prov. 9:8**
 - 4. Even leaders sometimes need to be restored. 2:11ff 1 Tim. 5:19ff**
 - 5. Paul wrote this entire epistle for the purpose of restoring the Galatians. 1:6 3:1**
- F. Jesus gently restores us to God. Isa. 53:6 42:3 Ro. 5:10-11 Mt. 11:28-29 2 Co. 10:1**

III. Bear the heavy burdens of your weak brothers. v. 2-5

- A. One way we bear one another's burdens is by restoring those who have fallen into trespass. v. 1 Pr. 27:6 Ezek. 34:4
- B. There are many among us who bear other heavy burdens. You can help.
1. Some have been hurt by others.
 2. Some are experiencing physical trials.
 3. Some have financial burdens. Js. 2:15-16 1 Jo. 4:17
 4. Some are just overwhelmed by circumstances in life.
 5. You can bear the burdens of others by prayer. Eph. 6:18
 6. Many are burdened because they are lost.
- C. Burden-bearing involves sacrifice and grace. Phil. 2:3-4
1. You need to be close to people before you can even know what their burdens are.
 2. We don't despise those who are weak, but instead help them. Ro. 15:1 1 Th. 5:14 2 Co. 11:28-29
 3. This is something every Christian can do.
 4. Sometimes you will be the weak one who needs help.
- D. As you lovingly serve and help others, you fulfill the Law of Christ. 6:2b 5:14,23b
1. Jesus has taken away your burdens. Ps. 55:22 1 Pe. 5:7 Isa. 53:4 Mt. 11:28ff
 2. We fulfill the law by lovingly serving others as Christ has loved us. John 13:34 15:12-13 Mt. 20:25-28
 3. This is in contrast to the Law promoted by the Judaizers which had no power to produce spiritual fruit, but instead produced dissension. 5:15 Mt. 23:4 Acts 15:10
- E. Don't let your pride stop you from loving your weak brothers. v. 3-5 1 Thess. 5:14
1. Don't think too highly of yourself. v. 3 Ro. 12:3 7:18 1 Co. 13:2 4:7 15:10 8:13 Rev. 3:17 Luke 18:11 1 Tim. 1:15
 2. Stop comparing yourself to others so that you can assess your own life before God. v. 4 6:13-14 1 Co. 4:3-5 1:30-31 2 Co. 1:12,14 9:3 10:17 Luke 17:10
In what sense can you boast?
 3. You have your own load to bear for which you are accountable to God. v. 5
Luke 12:48 Ro. 14:12 2 Co. 5:10

IV. Concluding application: Those who are spiritual are brother-keepers who gently restore those who fall into sin and bear the burdens of the weak.

Discussion questions

1. Give examples of unreliable indicators of spiritual maturity.
2. According to this passage what are some marks of spiritual maturity?
3. Why is it necessary to confront people who are sinning?
4. What is the difference between confronting someone in a fleshly way versus a spiritual way?
How can you overcome your fleshly attitudes?
5. What is the purpose of the confrontation?
6. How can the person who is confronting the sinner be tempted to sin?
7. What kinds of burdens exist in our community? Which of these are you willing to bear?
8. How have others helped you with your burdens?
9. What would you say to someone who is reluctant to bear the burdens of others?
10. How does our burden-bearing emulate that of our Lord Jesus?