

## **Galatians 6:1-2 – Help your brother or he dies!**

TSK, Handfuls, Calvin, JFB, Henry, Rienecker, Gaebelein, Robertson, Trapp, Poole, PNT, Clarke, Barnes, Geneva, GreekLexicon, Beloved in the Lord Jesus: Apostle Paul warned the Galatian Christians **not to use their freedom as an excuse to live however they wanted**. Yes, Christians were **freed from the curse of the law**. Yes, **they did not have to do anything for their salvation**. **But** they were **not freed from obeying God's law**. Now, **in order to obey they were given the fruits of the Spirit of God**.

**A life characterized by the fruit of the Spirit starts with love-love for your brother!** So hear about loving your brother today!

Our headings are:

**You must HELP your brother with Error**

**You must HELP your brother with Burdens**

Our goals are: That **based on your salvation you have received through Christ, you will labor to help your weak brothers so they can be freed from sins and serve the Lord better**. (Love is labor!)

### **You must help your brother with Error**

1 **Brethren**, if a man is **overtaken** in any **trespass**, you **who are spiritual** restore such a one in a spirit of **gentleness, considering yourself** lest you also be tempted.

#### **1. Apostle Paul called on Galatian Christians who were filled with the Spirit to help those who were overtaken in any trespass.**

“Error” or “fault” is a better translation for the word trespass. Literally: A **visible diversion from the path of truth**.

It is true Christians should help each other when they are sick or need to move, but this is referring to a spiritual error.

#### **2. What were these errors of the weak Christians in Galatia?**

**Wicked Judaizers pressured weak Christians to adopt the ceremonial laws of the Old Testament alongside of their faith** in Jesus, and **these weak Christians succumbed to those pressures and started believing ceremonial laws were necessary for their salvation**. A grave error indeed! But surely there were other errors as well.

#### **3. Why was this issue considered such a grave error?**

**The Judaizers were attacking the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross as not being sufficient for the sins of his people**. You see, **if Christ's sacrifice wasn't enough, as some of the Christians believed in Galatia, then they were saying that Christians were still in their sins**. Either all sins are forbidden in Christ or no sin is forbidden in Christ.

**This error caused weak Christians in Galatia to alter the way they lived and worshipped**. They could not worship with the same zeal and dedication, since, to them, their salvation was not 100% dependent on God. **This was a grave error**.

#### **4. Yet even though they had this grievous error, notice how the Apostle Paul called them “brothers.”**

Apostle Paul recognized that **one became a true brother with another when he received the blood atonement of Jesus Christ by faith**. The atonement of Jesus Christ brought them into the same household.

#### **5. So how were the fruit-of-the-Spirit filled Christians to restore their brothers who were overwhelmed by this error?**

**a. You get the sense of how to do it when you understand the meaning of the word “restore.”** The word “restore” is the word used to describe the setting of bones that were broken or out of joint. It is the word “katartidzo” – much like cathartic. It is also used to refer to the mending of nets, or equipping the saints. It is a positive word. Consider this in practice...

**Romans 15:1** We then who are strong ought to **bear with the scruples of the weak, and not to please ourselves**.

Setting a bone is not pleasant, but it is necessary, and that is exactly what they had to do to those who strayed from the path. Try correcting a young person about the way she is dressing...or a young man for wasting time playing video games...

**b. Prayer is part of it**. Jesus prayed for Peter knowing Peter was going to deny him...**that he might be restored**.

**Luke 22:32** "But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren."

#### **6. This was a job especially commended to the mature (Spirit-filled and fruit bearing) Christians, meaning it was a spiritual job!**

**But this was especially directed to fathers in the home and elders in the church**. So physical and spiritual fathers could not be missing in action, becoming too busy with work or play, and leaving the child in error.

**Fathers and elders were to become knowledgeable about how to attack the arguments immature Christians faced**. They could not ignore the weaker brother, as was their natural tendency.

#### **7. The mature were to restore the straying one with gentleness.**

They had to have the right attitude, keeping in mind that **gentleness is a fruit of the Spirit**. Harshness could have overwhelmed weak Christians. Jesus taught in Matthew 18:15-17 of using humility to the one in error. The mature had to go the erring person first!

**2 Timothy 2:25** **in humility correcting those who are in opposition**, if God perhaps will grant them

repentance, so that they may know the truth,  
Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the **Spirit** is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,  
They needed to use oil for healing, not vinegar.

### **8. The mature had to consider their own weaknesses when they were seeking to restore the straying one!**

And note the change from plural to singular. Everyone one is this way. You have a body of sin, a corrupt and treacherous heart, that is full of deceitful lusts, by which you may be tempted also.

**Isn't it true that "they are commonly the most severe judges who forget their own weaknesses?"** Yet you must always have the goal of restoring...even with your punishment. And because you have your own weaknesses, you must always remember that you daily need help from God.

Matthew 7:5 "And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye?"

### **9. Lessons:**

#### **a. Consider some burdens people bear:**

**Some people become overburdened by their errors because they don't do some good things they should do, but they don't lose their salvation if don't do them.** For example: They don't lose their salvation for lack of baptism, or if they not a member of a Reformed church. Those are good things that should be done, but **God does not exclude weak Christians.**

**Some people become overburdened because they do things they shouldn't do and worry they might lose their salvation.** But **they don't lose their salvation if they smoke or drink too much alcohol**, which are bad things. **God does not destroy his children because of their sins!** Their sins were paid for!

**Some people become overburdened because they don't do things other people do.** They feel guilty because they don't homeschool their children, or they don't dress with a suit a tie, or they take anti-depression medicines, or they weren't married in a church building. **But God gives you some choices!**

**b. These people who carry these burdens are Christ "and" Christians who become weak.** Why? **Trying to have Christ and some other means of salvation causes guilt. Guilt, you say? Yes.** It is a guilt which crushes you **when you know you can't live up to God's standards.** Yes, errors can overtake! They also rob Christ of the honor that belongs to him.

**c. In order to help the weak, nourish yourself so you become mature.** After all, you can't expect to protect your children or young Christians if you are falling for the same trap as they fall into.

**d. Don't overlook sin. You have to deal with it. Make sure sin does not crush the weak.**

**e. Helping others is not to show how much you know; helping is to restore them to the right way.**

### **Help Your Brother With Burdens**

2 Bear one **another's burdens**, and so **fulfill the law of Christ.**

#### **1. Apostle Paul then called on God's mature children to bear one another's burdens.**

**The phrase "one another's" is emphatic in the original language**, put at the beginning of the sentence to draw attention. Literally: "*Another's burdens you must bear.*"

#### **2. Apostle Paul called strong Christians to help the weak when they were walking under heavy burdens.**

**"Burdens" is a more general word than "trespass" or "error."**

Some needed **encouragement when they were discouraged** and **support when they were lonely.** Some needed a **listening ear when they were overwhelmed with troubles or guilt.** Some needed **instruction when they didn't know what to do.** He knew the Christian journey was a challenge. **Weak Christians needed more than correction of errors.** The Judaizers had put burdens on weak Christians. Christians were called to help bear the burdens for them. Consider what the predecessors of the Judaizers did!

Matthew 23:4 "For they **bind heavy burdens**, hard to bear, and **lay them on men's shoulders**; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers.

The weak needed help, not added pressure on their heads.

**3. When the mature believers helped the struggling ones bear their burdens, they were fulfilling God's law!**

**To fulfill the law of Christ means to fill up a hole in the ground...and to do so rigorously.**

Another analogy: When the hole, if not filled, becomes a death trap...**How could they walk in safety?**

**Apostle Paul understood bearing his brothers' burdens.** When he was imprisoned and needed encouragement, he was visited, cared for, and prayed for.

**4. Christ helped those who were taken over by sins and struggles, forming the picture of you caring for others, so mature Christians are only leading them to the one who carries their burdens.**

He did this when he perfectly obeyed and then suffered for them at the end of his life.

**5. Since God's law is love – which is a self-sacrifice for the good of others, there is nothing here of self.**

**6. And what is the law of Christ but to love one another?**

John 13:34-35 "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you,

**7. Lessons:**

**a. Bear one another's burdens by gently reproving them when they sin, by comforting them when they are overwhelmed by guilt, by giving a listening ear when they need one, by sympathizing with them in their sorrow, by praying to God to manifest his pardoning grace to them, by helping those who are providentially poor, and by forgiving them.** This is how to express obedience to the law.

**b. When you bear a brother's burden, you bring honor to the Christ and you cause him to bring honor to Christ.**

**c. There are those who rob Christ of his rightful honor when he tells his brother he can help save himself.** Also, he robs Christ of his rightful honor when he *does not rebuke, comfort, and teach him* when he needs it.

**d. Doing good to others for them to praise you and tell others how good you are is to do a bad work.** Stop it. There is nothing wrong if people honor you, but that must be the result of helping them. That must never be the purpose of you helping them.

**Conclusion:**

As Galatian Christians were **filled with the Spirit of God** and started to bear fruits, **they were enabled to help those who were weak**, who were overcome by faults of willfulness or ignorance. In doing this, **they brought honor to the Savior.**

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

**1. You have received much from Christ.** You are in the Vine! You are nourished by his Word and Spirit. You have been made strong.

**2. Help those who are weak.** Help them by encouragement, by rebuke, and by instruction. Help them in their sorrow and in their fears and uncertainty.

**3. You must do this because you must work together to build the kingdom of Jesus and bring glory to him.** If you don't do this, you show you are ungrateful for all he has done for you and has given to you.

**Finally: God has well-provided for his children – even heaven.** If you are the Devil's child, his only provision for you is hell. If you don't want hell, you must ask God to make you his child. He will make you his child if you ask him to receive Jesus' perfect life of obedience and his sacrificial death as yours.