

Galatians 6:3-5 – What Makes You Help Your Brother

GreekLexicon, JFB, PNT, Clarke, Calvin, Henry, Robertson, Vincent, Poole, Barnes, Rienecker, Gaebelien, Geneva, Trapp, Handfuls, INT
Beloved in the Lord: Apostle Paul made it clear the **Galatians were freed from the obligations of the ceremonial laws** because those laws were **fulfilled in Jesus**. They didn't need to do anything for their salvation but received it!

That was the first part of his letter.

Now, Apostle Paul reminded the **Galatians they were not freed from the obligations of the moral law**. They were only **freed from the curse of the moral law**.

The moral law could never be destroyed or ended (Matthew 5:18-20). **The summary of that moral law is to love – love God and love man**.

Apostle Paul **encouraged the Galatians to show love and bear one another's burdens – carry their spiritual, mental, and physical loads**. Stronger, mature believers had to help the weak, immature believers. That was true love! That was law-keeping!

Today he prepared the Galatian Christians to help carry each other's loads.
(Encouragement was not enough! He incentivized helping.)

Our headings are:

In order to help a weaker brother, think little of yourself

In order to help a weaker brother, think little of your work

In order to help a weaker brother, think you will have to give account for your actions

Our goals are: **That you will be humbled by your position in Christ and work to help your weaker brother struggling with burdens he can't bear by himself.**

In Order to Help a Weaker Brother, Think Little of Yourself

3 For if anyone **thinks himself to be something**, when he is nothing, **he deceives himself**.

1. Apostle Paul told the Galatian Christians they were not to think of themselves more highly than they were.

2. Why were the Galatian Christians not to think highly of themselves?

a. If they thought more of themselves, they would deceive themselves and become arrogant. The idea here is a warning **not to have subjective fantasies** – or delusions – which could be fatal. **“It's hard to be humble when you're perfect!”**

b. That boastful nature would cause them to refuse to help others with weakness. Because they thought they were so special, they would have no interest in helping others.

But the biblical view of self-esteem it is a bad thing. They were not so special. They were unworthy people saved by grace.

3. On the other hand, if the Galatian Christians had a real sense of their weakness and indebtedness to God, they would show more merciful consideration to those who were weak.

They would recognize they needed the sympathy of others when they fell, so they were to show sympathy to others when others fell. (*Do unto others as you would have them do to you.*)

4. You see, the Galatian Christians owed their being and preservation, and all the mercies of their life, to God.

They had no grace nor gifts by themselves, but what they have received. Look at the apostle's frustration with arrogance!

1Corinthians 4: 7 For who makes you differ from another? **And what do you have that you did not receive?** Now if you did indeed receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it? 8 You are already full! You are already rich! You have reigned as kings without us — and indeed I could wish you did reign, that we also might reign with you!

They could do nothing good, not even think a good thought, or perform a single good action by themselves.

5. They should have been thinking much more of Christ and his good work to guide them in caring for others under a load of worries.

For in him, and through him, and to him are all things. He paid their liberty price.

6. Lessons:

a. Some people have a feeling of smug superiority over all others. They are self-righteous and bring condemnation on themselves. Don't be like they. Don't be friends with them. Don't marry them. Their focus will never be to please God or their neighbors, but to please themselves.

b. Because the Bible teaches man cannot do a single good thing, or even think a pure thought by himself, Christianity and Christians have become the objects

of hate of modern psychologists. The world, which exalts itself against a holy God, cannot stand the fact that man is unable to do some things! (The biblical view of self-esteem would drive most psychiatrists crazy.) **Lightfoot: “In Christian morality self-esteem is vanity and vanity is nothingness.”**

c. It is hard to be humble and serve...and it is a struggle even for many Christians. But you must re-focus on who you are (You’re a child of God.) and whose you are in Christ (You belong to Jesus Christ).

Don’t consider the person who needs help as much as you consider the one who calls you to help! You might not want to help someone because you know he might not be a good person, **but the One who is good to you** is the basis of helping!

In Order to Help Your Brother, Think Little of your Work

4 But let each one **examine his own work**, and then he **will have rejoicing in himself alone**, and not in another.

1. Apostle Paul then urged the Galatians to look at their own work – to examine them – and realize they were inadequate.

The word (examine) here signifies to burn with fire...as metals are purified.

2 Corinthians 13:5 Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. **Test yourselves.** Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? —unless indeed you are disqualified.

There were always impurities that corrupted good works. Look at one example.

James 1:26 **If anyone among you thinks he is religious**, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one’s religion is useless.

The Galatians might have fooled themselves, and even fooled others, but they couldn’t fool God. Their works weren’t perfect.

2. Apostle Paul reminded them if they looked at their own work they would have little reason to rejoice.

“He will have rejoicing in himself alone,” is sarcasm. He used sarcasm in this letter before!

3. Some commentators take this phrase “will have reason to rejoice in himself alone”

positively, (not seeing it as sarcasm) as if it were a good thing and man was called to rejoice in his good works.

They argue: “If men examined their work, they would see their works were good, and rejoice in themselves.” But that is a big jump in conclusion and not consistent with what came before and what follows after!)

John Calvin is in this group, and that is why I am pointing this out.

The truth is, those who thought much of themselves and their work would not accept instruction or correction from others, so they can't have ground for rejoicing. (They can only self-righteously rejoice, and do so ALONE!)

Before in Verse 3, Apostle Paul insisted **Galatians must not think highly of themselves.** How could he then immediately say, “Think highly of your work and rejoice?” More, how could he say, “Rejoice in your work alone, and not in another's work?” Christians are called to rejoice when others do well.

On the contrary, **Jesus pointed out the Pharisees saw themselves as good and so they concentrated on their strengths and focused on the weakness of others.**

They were ready to stone the woman guilty of adultery (John 8:2-11), they were insensitive to their breach of the law by taking advantage of the helpless, they encouraged rebellion against parents, and they persecuted the righteous.

So this was just sarcasm.

4. In short: Examine your work, it will humble you, and therefore you will help your brother.

5. Lessons:

a. Work should not only be done...it should be proved. A good work may only appear to be good, but it isn't. You must test it. See if it is done for the glory of Jesus Christ, from faith in Jesus Christ, and according to the law of Jesus Christ.

b. “You look better when others look bad,” is the world's standard, not a Christian's.

c. You may get a godly satisfaction in what you have done...but never rejoice in yourself. Your help is in the name of the Lord!

d. Don't be arrogant as it would hinder you from helping others who need your help.

e. Rejoice when others do well and please the Lord.

In Order to Help Your Brother, Think You Will Have to Give Account for Your Actions

5 For each one shall **bear his own load.**

1. A simple examination of this verse does not make the meaning apparent; you have to consider the context and consider the original language to get the full meaning.

a. The context is motivating others to help his weaker brother, so this verse was a challenge or a warning to do so. In our passage, “load” is used to describe the soldier carrying rations and equipment on his back...weight. This word “load” was also used to describe the cargo on a ship.

b. The language is unique as well as the Jews would have understood this word in a unique way. To “bear his own load” meant to “carry burdens or a responsibility.

2. So what were the burdens the Galatian Christians were required to carry for others?

They were to work hard for their own needs but also to bear the load of his brother.

They were not to compare themselves to others and say: He isn't doing much so I don't have to.”

If they didn't help carry the load of their weaker brothers, they were going to have to answer to God, hence the command.

3. Lessons:

a. Your duty is bear your load and your brother's load. This is most anti-lazy as you would get. You not only have your duty to God and family, you also have a responsibility to your brother or sister.

b. Parents must not rob their sons of a good work ethic. They must make them work and remind them they will have to give account to God for their duties to others. This starts with taking care of your younger brother...or sister. Warn your sister if she wants to do something wrong.

c. God will judge how you treat others, and what you think of yourself and all of your works.

d. Your duty to carry your brother's load (help him with his spiritual and earthly struggles) is light because Jesus took all your heavy burdens on the cross. Work is easier now!

Conclusion:

Jesus denied himself the conveniences of heaven and came into the sin-cursed world to die for you even though you were nothing, your work was nothing, your words were nothing, your thoughts were nothing, and your most righteous action was like a filthy rag.

You were slaves, poor, wretched, and blind. Jesus was blessed by his father for doing this work...a blessing you can now receive.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

1. Knowing you were nothing – a future-less slave to sin, heading to hell and not knowing it, and then being redeemed by Christ, show your love for Christ's weak children by helping them bear their burdens.

Learn the best way to carry those burdens.

2. Guard against becoming lazy. Remind yourself of your past deplorable condition so you don't get calloused and uncaring. Your brother needs you.

3. Be ready to allow others to help you bear your burdens. Don't be isolated. Yes, in God's plans you may be needy and must receive help.

It is a sin to refuse help when you need it.

4. Then prepare to help others after you receive help. God's grace never ends with you. Pass it on.

Finally: We are able to help others because our greatest burden – sin – has been removed by Jesus. He strengthens us to help others. You, if you are not a Christian, you still have a burden that will slowly crush you body to death and transfer your body and soul to hell. The only way out is to repent.