

Restore One Another

(Galatians 6:1)

The verse above reveals a frightening reality. It reveals that any disciple can get caught up in sin. This is something that we see happening constantly throughout the New Testament.

- The Christians in Galatia were warned about this (Galatians 5:4).
- Simon was guilty of allowing wickedness to corrupt his heart (Acts 8:18-23).
- Peter was guilty of hypocrisy and causing division (Galatians 2:11-14).

What are we to do when we see a brother caught up in sin? In Galatians 6:1, Paul says we are to make an effort to restore that brother.

I. **It is our duty (Galatians 6:1).**

- A. It is the responsibility of the spiritual person.
 1. The spiritual person does not just include elders.
 2. The spiritual person does not just include preachers.
 3. Every **disciple** is to be spiritual (Romans 8:1-4; 1 Peter 2:5; Galatians 5:16, 18, 22-25).
- B. From this we see that Christians are to be accountable to one another.
 1. When we notice one another in sin, God doesn't want us to sit back and do nothing.
 2. Instead He wants us to help one another get back on track before it is too late!

II. **In spirit of gentleness (Galatians 6:1).**

- A. This does not mean...
 1. We are to easily brush sin aside and be passive.
 2. We are to be afraid to call out sin.
 3. We are to avoid saying certain kinds of behavior are wrong.
- B. What does this mean?
 1. We need to always examine our **motives**.
 2. The motive for doing this must always be to help someone turn from the error of their ways (James 5:19-20). The goal must always be to speak the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15). When motives are pure and righteous, we will always do it in a spirit of gentleness.

III. **We need to be careful (Galatians 6:1).**

- A. What does Paul mean in the last part of Galatians 6:1?
 1. Some say this refers to carefully examining our motives before attempting to restore a brother. We need to make sure we are approaching him for the right reason.
 2. Others say that when restoring someone, we need to be mindful of how we would want them to approach us (Matthew 7:12).
- B. The most likely view is Paul is warning us not to get **drawn** into a brother's **sin**.

Conclusion: Do you know of someone who needs to be **restored**? What are you going to do about it before it is too late?