



Will Anyone Help Me?

Galatians 6:1-3

Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; *each one* looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted. ² Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ. ³ For if anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself.



Here is the BIG IDEA in this lesson:

True believers care about one another's needs.

Introduction:

The theme of the book of Galatians is FREEDOM (*Gal.5:1*). However, Christian freedom is not a license to do what you want to do; rather, it is *the ability to do what you ought to do*, and Christians ought to bear one another's burdens. The question is, how is this to be done? False teachers in Paul's day suggested it was by obeying the Law. Yet the Apostle sets forth *grace in contrast to the law*, and *faith in contrast to works*. He shows us *the flesh and its works*, in contrast to *the Spirit and His fruit*. In other words, the purpose of this Epistle is to show us that the way of the living a cross-shaped life means:

- *liberty not bondage*
- *depending on the Spirit, not on the flesh*
- *living for others, not for self*
- *living for God's glory, not for man's approval*

In what areas do you presently feel enslaved to? Is there any vice or weakness that you feel trapped within? Are you constantly preoccupied with your desires, your needs, and your life? Do you have an inward anxiety to be a people pleaser rather than a pleaser of God? This lesson will help you to find freedom.

The Apostle Paul's approach is three-fold: first, he speaks to us **personally** (*Chapters 1-2*), second, he speaks to us **doctrinally** (*Chapters 3-4*), and third, he speaks to us **practically** (*Chapters 5-6*). In a nutshell, the Apostle says to us: *If the Spirit dwells in you, the chief evidence will be a life that loves. Liberty in Christ is not at the expense of the Law of Christ, and the Law of Christ is the law of love.* In these first verses of chapter six this law is applied to *the conduct of the believer in relation to a fallen brother*. Let's see how we stack up.



Lesson: Thinking Truth Through

A. What is the sphere of relationship given in this passage? Choose one:

- clergy to believer
- believer to non-believer
- believer to believer

B. How should we view them practically?

C. Four things are brought before us in verse one:

"Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted."

- First, what is the offense?
- Second, who is to deal with it?
- Third, what is to be done?
- Fourth, how is it to be accomplished?

D. According to 1 Corinthians 2:14-15, what two categories are all men divided into?

Conclusion: the Christian is a...

E. What is the hypothetical case that Paul sets before us in Galatians 6:1?

To be *"caught"* ("prolambano") means to be *taken by surprise, off guard, or overtaken suddenly*. The word *"trespass"* ("paraptoma") means *a deviation from the path of righteousness*, not a departure from the doctrine of the faith.

F. Are there any limits to the kind of trespasses in which a believer can be caught? Read Galatians 5:19-20.

G. What is the difference, then, between the believer and the unbeliever, according to Galatians 5:21?

H. According to Matthew 23:4, what do unspiritual (unsaved) people do when others fail? (*Cf. Acts 15:10*)

- I. What **action** is the Spirit-led believer called to apply in such cases, according to Galatians 6:1?

The word “*restore*” means to mend, as a net (*Matt.4:21*), or to reset a joint or a broken bone (*1 Thess.3:10*). The idea is to bring something or someone back to its former position of wholeness. Practically, it means to follow a course of action that would make the fallen brother fully operational again. The present imperative in the Greek indicates to restore him—even though the actual achievement may not be in your power—while displaying patience in the process.

- J. What **attitude** are we to have as we seek to restore those who have fallen?

A *spirit of gentleness* is one that is conscious of human infirmity, in general, and one’s own weakness, in particular. It is not a *toleration* of sin, but *recognition* of its effects on the fallen and how it could affect you. It is not fleshly *confidence*, but deep *dependence* on God to help others.

- K. What kind of burdens can we carry, according to these verses?

- Matthew 20:12
- 2 Corinthians 5:4
- Luke 11:46
- 2 Corinthians 1:8
- 1 Timothy 5:16
- Matthew 11:30

A “**burden**” (“baros”), as Paul uses it in Galatians 6:2, means any crushing weight or difficulty that presses down or makes a demand on someone physically, mentally, materially, domestically, financially, or spiritually.

- L. What are we to do with regard to one another’s burdens?

- How? Each situation requires *prayer, wisdom, and love*.

- M. According to verse 3, what is one of the hindrances to becoming a successful burden bearer? (*Cf. 1 Cor.10:12*)

- N. When we bear one another’s burdens, what do we fulfill? (*Cf. John 13:34-35, 15:12; James 1:25, 2:12*)



Application: Making Truth Stick

Two lessons to learn:

1. We all have *burdens to bear* and we are not expected to bear them *alone*.
2. We must not only *be prepared to help others with their burdens*, we must be *humble enough to accept the help of others* with our burdens. (*Ps.55:22; 1 Pet.5:7*)

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A word of wisdom for burden-bearers.

How do we help families properly? Here are three NEEDS that every Christian has:

- Motivation—for this we need to lead family members to the LOVE OF CHRIST. (*2 Cor.5:14*)
- Direction—for this we need to lead family members to the LAW OF CHRIST. (*Ps.119:105*)
- Strength—for this we need to lead family members to the LIFE OF CHRIST. (*Phil.4:13*)

Two steps to take:

1. Share one burden with a brother or sister today.
2. Ask him or her to *pray with you* and *for you* for the strength to glorify God in it.

Being a doer of the Word (*2 Tim.3:16*)

1. What did I learn (“teaching”)?
2. Where do I fall short (“reproof”)?
3. What do I need to do about it (“correction”)?
4. How can I make this a consistent part of my life (“training”)?

Answer Key

Lesson: Thinking Truth Through

- A. believer to believer
- B. we are to view them as a family member, not an enemy
- C.
 - stumbling into a trespass
 - those who are spiritual
 - restore them
 - in a spirit of gentleness
- D. natural man and spiritual man; conclusion: spiritual man
- E. anyone caught in a trespass
- F. no
- G. the unbeliever practices these things
- H. they put burdens on them and are unwilling to help them
- I. restore the brother
- J. gentleness
- K. What kind of burdens can we carry, according to these verses?
 - vocational
 - physical
 - religious/legalistic
 - ministerial
 - financial
 - spiritual
- L. bear them—lock arms with them and walk with them
- M. self-righteousness
- N. the law of Christ, the law of love, and the law of liberty which leads to freedom

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