

***Helping a Fallen Brother***  
***Galatians 6:1-5***

In the popular comic strip “Peanuts” Lucy asks Charlie Brown, “Why are we here on earth?” He replies, “To make others happy.” Lucy ponders his reply for a minute and then asks, “Then why are the others here?”

Paul informs us why the “others” are here. So that we might bear their burdens. This is one of the New Testament’s many “one another” passages (5:13, 15, 26, 6:3).

There is a seeming contradiction between 6:2 and 6:5. But upon examining the two different words Paul uses the alleged contradiction is explained.

In 6:2, Paul commands us “to bear you one another’s burdens” and uses a word that describes the weight of a problem a person carries just before he commits suicide. In verse 5, he uses another word that we will look at this evening.

***In Galatians, Paul is Defending the Gospel against the attacks of the Legalist***

1. In Chapters 1-2, Paul Responds to Legalism’s Opposition against him.
2. In Chapters 3-4, Paul Responds to Legalism’s Opposition against Justification by Faith.
3. In Chapters 5-6, Paul Responds to Legalism’s Opposition of Sanctification By Faith. Paul is answering the question, “*How Can I Be Spiritual?*”
  - I. Not by Legalism (5:1-12)
  - II. Not by License (5:13)
  - III. But by Holy Spirit Produced Love (5:13c-26)
    - A. *Holy Spirit enables us to fulfill the essence of the Law (5:13c-15)*
    - B. *Holy Spirit enables us not to fulfill the flesh (5:16-26)*
    - C. *Holy Spirit enables us to Serve One Another (6:1-18)*

1. By Helping a Fallen Brother 6:1-5
  - a. By bearing one another’s burden (6:1-4)
    - 1) Who Helps a Fallen Brother? “Brethren”
      - a) Those walking in the Spirit
      - b) Not the legalist. He adds to the weight of the burden. He attacks a fallen brother (The legalist “bite and devour one another” 5:15)
    - 2) Who Needs our Help?
      - a) Those “overtaken” or surprised by sin. They did not plan this sin. But we are still

responsible for our choices. Sometimes we are told, "I was forced to sin." Sin is a choice. Paul makes this point in 1 Corinthians 10:13.

b) Those "overtaken" or caught red handed by another. Caught with your hand in the cookie jar. The word is used in John 8:4 of the woman caught in adultery.

3) How do we Help those overtaken in sin?

a) By restoring those who need help.

1. "Restore" means to set a broken bone. He fell from grace (5:4) and is in pain and cannot walk in the Spirit.
2. "Restore" means to repair a torn fishing net in Matthew 4:21. Spurgeon called his church a soul trap where sinners could not get away once they caught in the net. But sin tears a hole in the net and the fish get away.

b) By restoring with the spirit of meekness. A broken bone or dislocated joint is like a sinning believer, very sensitive, who gently has to be restored. Restoring or repairing a torn net that is all tangled requires great patience. Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 10:12, "Where let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he falls."

c) By restoring like Christ (6:2). Christ tenderly dealt with the fallen (even though He severely rebuked the self righteous)

1. The sinful woman in Luke 7:36-50
2. The penitent thief in Luke 23:43
3. Simon Peter in Luke 22:61 and John 21:15-17
4. The invalid in John 5:4
5. The woman caught in adultery in John 8:4

Someone said that believers are not made of marble, plastic or stain glass but with flesh and blood.

d) By not by restoring like the Pharisees (6:3) The Pharisees thought they were something spiritually because of pride when they were not because of the contempt they held for helping others. As in Luke 18:9-14, the Pharisees compared themselves to others whom they considered inferior.

A little boy proudly announced he was 9 feet tall because he had made his own ruler and measured himself.

Romans 3:23 says, "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God."

Christ is the superior example of bearing the burdens of others. In John 19:17, we see Christ "bearing His cross" on which according to 1 Peter 2: 24 He will bear our sins in His own body. We are never more like Christ than when we are helping others shoulder their burdens.