



SERIES: WE ARE FREE (A Study of Galatians) December 2022 – January 2023

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Wednesday, January 18, 2023

Scripture: Galatians 6:1-2

TITLE: How to Walk with Others

This past summer I moved. Well, let me rephrase. Our family moved with the help of other people. Moving is a daunting task. It's emotionally exhausting. It's financially taxing. And as you get older it gets physically overwhelming. Whoa!

That's why I was thankful to have a band of brothers who were by my side to help bear the burden of moving. Now Paul instructs us as believers to bear burdens as well. Now, these aren't physical burdens, but something far more serious. Let's listen to the apostle Paul in Galatians chapter 6 beginning verse 1:

Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

In verses one and two Paul gives us three responsibilities of being a follower of Christ. First is to restore, second is to keep watch, and third is to bear a burden.

First, Paul says, "If we are spiritual." In other words, if we are walking in the spirit and we know of a believer who is caught in sin, we are called to restore them. This completely blows away the argument of "you cannot judge someone else." We as believers are to know God's Word and His expectations for our lives. So when we find another believer disregarding God's ways and choosing to sin willfully we are told to call them out and restore them. "Restore" has the idea of mending or repairing something. It's to make it right again.

You see what we tolerate, we promote. Far too many Christians today sit quietly as brothers and sisters live in sin. We are called to help them see sin for what it is and then help them walk with God correctly. So we are called to restore each other.

We are also called to keep watch to make sure we don't get dragged into their sin as well. Some of us play cultural voyeurs. We walk along with people only to get close to the fire but hoping not to get burned. Paul is telling us you can't play that game. We can walk alongside people with wisdom and care but we must walk carefully so as not to accidentally fall into sin. We need to be vigilant in our own spiritual walk.

And last, Paul tells us to bear a burden. You see this is a true friend. Proverbs 17:17 says, "a friend loves at all times." Well true friendship has two components. The first is the ability to

Speak the truth no matter the consequences. And second, it's the compassion to love the person regardless of the outcome.

When we are living by the Spirit we restore, we keep ourselves, and we bear each other's burdens.

The friend calls the other friend out under sin but is willing to help them become all God has called them to be. When we return to our slavery of sin, whether it's gambling, or sex, or alcohol, or drugs, or greed, or whatever it is, God does not expect us to overcome it alone. By God's grace we get to walk alongside people and help them by bearing the burden.

Maybe you've gone through your own battle as well. God tells us that the trials we go through are there to grow us up and to help us minister to other people. Who is one person in your life today who needs a real friend? The person for whom you can share the truth, speak the truth, and help restore to the truth?

My challenge to you today is to reach out to one person today that you know is struggling. Lovingly tell them you will help because God has helped you.