

BOOK OF GALATIANS

“Restore Such a One”

Scripture Reading: GALATIANS 5:26 - 6:1

-) **SLIDES 1-6**. Bible Jeopardy!
-) **SLIDES 7**. Read today’s Scripture text.
-) **SLIDE 8**. Today we continue in our expository study of the Book of GALATIANS. This is message #42. I have titled today’s message *“Restore Such a One”* (6:1).
-) If today’s message sounds somewhat familiar, it’s because I’m using a lot of material from a message I spoke a few years back. I figure if something is useful, then it’s worth repeating.
-) Paul continues down the path of practical application for the believer. In 5:26, he brings to light three attitudes a believer may have towards another believer. And they are boastful, challenging, and envying. Let’s look into these three attitudes.
-) **SLIDE 9**. A believer could be **BOASTFUL**. Look at how obedient and Spiritual I am.
-) **SLIDE 10**. A believer could be **CHALLENGING**. Why aren’t you as obedient and Spiritual as I am?
-) **SLIDE 11**. A believer could be **ENVYING**. Why am I not as obedient and Spiritual as they are?
-) **SLIDE 12**. One thing about the human condition is that we sometimes love to **COMPARE** ourselves to other believers. And if and when we ever get into thinking this way, this is where Paul tells us that we need to apply the fruit of the Spirit. Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control towards one another. And when we exhibit the fruit of the Spirit, that places us all on equal ground.

-) **SLIDE 13**. GALATIANS 6:1. He begins in 6:1 with how to restore a sinning brother or sister in Christ. In this verse the word “*brethren*” and the word “*anyone*” are synonymous.
-) So, what is the Biblical process for restoring such a one?
-) **SLIDE 14**. We must know that the person in need of restoration **IDENTIFIES** as a believer. It’s not what we think they are. It’s what they say they are. I say this because there are different paths to take depending on if that person says they are a believer or not.
-) **SLIDE 15**. GAL 6:1. According to this text, this example, this brother or sister is guilty of a trespass. It’s not alleged and it’s not gossip. It’s a fact. They are caught in a trespass.
-) **SLIDE 16**. When restoring another believer, make sure the trespass accusation is **TRUE**. This is pretty basic. We do not want to bring unreliable or false testimony against another believer. We certainly would not want them doing that to us.
-) So, let’s put these two truths into practice. A hypothetical situation. You know of a person who is practicing an immoral or unethical lifestyle. This person claims he/she is a believer and you are 100% assured of their trespass.
-) A few possible situations. Perhaps they are deep into the LGBTQ movement. Perhaps they are living with a partner outside of a marital relationship. Perhaps they are using unethical business practices (cooking the books). Or perhaps they have fallen prey to an addiction and their recreational drugs have become their god. And this list can go on and on.
-) I must add at this point that if the believer is in a constant state of unrepentant sin, then we may question if that person is truly a believer or not (sermon from 7/18). But they say they are. So, we will treat them as such. What is our course of action as a fellow brother or sister in Christ?

-) If the offender professes that they are in Christ, then we must act. Someone must intervene and that someone is you or me.
-) **SLIDE 17.** The 18th century Irish political philosopher Edmund Burke said this: "*All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.*" Those words are not in the Bible, but it sure is a Biblical principal. (GAL 6:1) We must always do something.
-) **SLIDE 18.** GAL 6:1. Now that we know we must initiate the restoration process, what should our attitude be in doing so? We restore with a Spirit of gentleness. And gentleness is a fruit of the Spirit. We defined gentleness as "*softness of manners; mildness of temper; sweetness of disposition; meekness.*"
-) **SLIDE 19.** Any restoring action from this point forward is not an act of **CONDEMNATION** towards the believer, but an act of **LOVE**. Remember, there is nothing more loving than the truth.
-) That is our goal and that must be the attitude in which we approach this situation. We do not hate the offender. We love that person. They are a brother or sister in Christ. They are part of the body of believers. Our hope is to see that person restored back into Christian fellowship and move beyond their trespass.
-) Mike, if we do this, it sounds like we are being judgmental. Doesn't Jesus tell us not to judge? The Christian has every right to confront and judge a brother or sister in Christ when they are caught in a trespass. Let's look at those Scripture verses while being careful about a few things.
-) **SLIDE 20.** 1PETER 4:17.
-) **SLIDE 21.** 1COR 5:12.
-) **SLIDE 22.** JOHN 7:24.
-) So, we have the Biblical green light to have this mindset. But let's make sure we have the right mindset when we do judge.

-) **SLIDE 23.** Our judgment of their trespass must be based on **TRUTH** and truth is found in God's Word.
-) **SLIDE 24.** HEBREWS 4:12. Our judgment of their trespass cannot be based on my opinion or your opinion or anyone's opinion. Judgment must be based on truth, and truth is found right here in the Bible. So, we ask. Are the actions of this believer (their trespass) contrary to the Word of God?
-) And this "*trespass*" cannot be a disputable matter. ROMANS 14:1-9. Explain.
-) **SLIDE 25.** We must judge **OURSELVES** before we judge someone else. Why? Because God does not want us to be hypocritical or condemning.
-) **SLIDE 26.** MATTHEW 7:4-5. Before we restore our brother or sister in Christ, we need to make sure we are not being hypocritical about our judgment. Let's get ourselves right first before we approach the offending brother/sister.
-) Mike, I don't know if I can do this restoration process. So, I ask. What are you more concerned about? Your relationship and friendship with that person or their spiritual well-being? You know their eternity may be at stake here.
-) "*Well, I don't want to hurt anyone's feelings.*" It's not about their feelings or our feelings. It's about truth and obedience.
-) But what if I do this and it doesn't work? What if they won't listen? What if they insist their sinful lifestyle is acceptable?
-) There are other steps outlined by Jesus in MATTHEW 18:15-18 concerning church discipline and how to handle a brother or sister caught in a trespass who refuses to be restored. I won't cover these steps in full today but I will tell you that the final step is to expel that unrepentant person from the church.
-) **SLIDE 27.** 1COR 5:11. When a person gets to the point where they refuse your loving and gentle restoration, then it is

time to get serious. Have nothing to do with them. Paul says in 1COR 5:11 not even to eat with such as these.

-) WOW! This is pretty intense. Yes, it is. And it's not popular. And it has every impression of making the Christian look like a cold-hearted person. And we never want our attempt at restoration to ever go to this extreme of casting them out of the church or refusing to eat with them. This is extreme.
-) And that's why it needs to be nipped in the bud at the start. We want to restore that person quickly yet gently before it turns into a situation that can bring division within a church.
-) **SLIDE 28.** 1COR 5:6. We take these steps of restoration because we must keep the church pure. A little yeast works through the whole batch of dough. We do not want a fellow believer's trespass to become contagious. And if we don't execute this restoration process, it will look as if the church approves of their actions.
-) **SLIDE 29.** GAL 6:1. Not get caught up in their trespass.
-) **SLIDE 30.** We must be on guard that we are not caught up in their **TRESPASS**. Again, a little leaven can leaven the whole lump. Sin can be contagious. If I am in the process of restoring a brother in Christ who is caught up in an adulterous affair, please do not introduce me to her good-looking sister.
-) Restore such a one. It's what we are commanded to do. And we execute this process Biblically and with gentleness.
-) On the other side of that coin, every true Christian should welcome God's Word testing them, convicting them, judging them—all for the purpose of refining and restoring them.
-) Our goal is to restore such a one.

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