Restoring the Fallen

Intro: In the latter part of Galatians, Paul discusses the freedom, liberty, that we have in Christ (see Gal. 4:31-5:1 “31So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman, but of the free. 5:1Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.”). In that liberty we are to walk, live, in the Spirit (see Gal. 5:13, 16, 18, 22, 25; 6:8 “13For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.... 16This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.... 18But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.... 22But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith.... 25If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit....”). In Gal. 6 Paul points out that we are to do good unto all men; Gal. 6:9-10 “9And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. 10As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.” He places at the top of the list the need to restore our brethren in Gal. 6:1 “1Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.”

The word restore in the original is from ἑπικατάρτιζω (katartivzw) and means; to mend, to furnish completely. It is in the present tense, thus continuous action suggesting the necessity for patience and perseverance in the process.

I. WHAT WE ARE TO DO?

A. Restore such a one.

1. Paul points out that we live by the Spirit.
   a. In living by the Spirit we must keep in step with Him.
   b. We are not keeping in step with the Spirit if we ignore an opportunity to help a brother.
   c. Jas. 4:17 “17Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.”

2. We are to love our brethren.
   a. John 13:34 “34A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.”
   b. 1 John 4:7-11 “7Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. 8He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. 9In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. 10Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 11Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.”
   c. When we love our brethren, their weaknesses and sins should become our concern and we should anxiously seek to help them over their temptations.

B. Have we done this as earnestly and sympathetically as we should.

1. How do we feel when we see someone struggle with some weakness or sin.
   a. Do we stand aside and criticize?
b. Do we feel holy and boast of our righteousness?

2. If they have sinned against us do we wait until they come crawling to us and instead of helping them we rebuke them, treat them harshly, and speak evil of them?

II. WHO IS TO DO THIS?

A. The spiritual are to restore the erring.

B. The spiritual are those who walk in the Spirit.

1. Those who have added the fruit of the Spirit to their lives; Gal. 5:22-23
   “22But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.”

2. Those who have crucified the flesh with the affections and lust; Gal. 5:24
   “24And they that are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.”

III. HOW WE ARE TO DO IT?

A. In the spirit of meekness.

1. Meekness.
   a. It is not one who is weak, but one who is strong.
   b. It is one who has his emotions and actions under control.
   c. One who is kind and gentle in his dealings with others.

2. In dealing with the erring we must exercise the spirit of humility and patience with a feeling of pity for the fallen.

B. Not haughtiness.

1. We cannot act as if his fall adds to our importance.

2. We should not feel big that we can go over and “straighten him out” because we are so righteous.

3. There must be the absence of self-exaltation.

4. We must not make them feel as if God does not love him.

IV. WHY DO THIS?

A. Considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.

1. We are not beyond trial and temptations and danger points of life.

2. We have elements of weaknesses in our flesh, and are therefore liable to falter when temptations arise.

B. We have also sinned.

1. We may have committed the same sin.

2. Or we may have committed a sin just as heinous before God.

Conclusion: We are to regard the fall of a brother only as a call to self-humiliation and tender dealings. When we bear one another’s burdens we fulfill the law of Christ; Gal. 6:2 “Bear ye one another’s burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.”