

Bearing Burdens
Galatians 6:1-5

Introduction: It's not news to say that we all struggle with sin. It is simply part of the fabric of life in this fallen world. The question is, "How do you go about this struggle?" Do you see it as something to be done alone? Or is there help? The passage that we are looking at today suggests that there is help. Paul describes a scenario in which someone within the church is trapped in some type of sin. The sin is such that the person needs to be brought back to a place of close fellowship with God. In his scenario Paul doesn't talk about what the sinning person needs to do; rather he talks about how others in the church need to respond. That's the help - the body of Christ. We need to help others who are caught in sin. And we need to do it with grace and truth.

Opening Discussion: What's one burden that you are carrying these days?

Read Galatians 6:1-5

1. How does this passage fit into the context of Galatians?
2. What are Paul's instructions for how we are to help a brother or sister in Christ who is caught in sin?
3. According to Paul, what kind of person can truly help someone caught in sin?

By way of application, Steve said:

Am I willing to allow others to bear my burdens (helping me with my sin)? I realize that some people are more private than others. Some people naturally have lots of Christian friends with whom they share deeply. Others find friendships to be very unnatural (and maybe even unnecessary). But it seems to me that everyone needs to be known by at least one or two other people. If nobody knows you in normal times, if and when you are trapped in some sin, it will be very unnatural for you to let others help you.

4. Does this idea of allowing others to help you with your sin sound like a crazy idea? Why or why not?

5. What makes it so hard at times to allow others to help us with our sin?
6. Are you known by at least one or two other people whom you would let help you if you are ever trapped in some sin?

Steve said:

Am I the type of person who can bear others' burdens (helping others address their sin)?
We're obviously not talking about going out on sin patrol, trying to spot sin in others' lives. We're talking about being the type of person who has the capacity to help others if and when sin does surface. Such a person is full of grace and truth; such a person can see how God can bring healing and wholeness to someone whose life may be incredibly broken and chaotic; such a person exhibits the fruit of the Spirit, modeling the type of life God wants for that person.

7. How do you feel about this idea of helping others with their sin?
8. In helping restore someone caught in sin, do you tend to need to offer more grace or more truth to keep balanced in your approach?
9. What is the main point of application for you from this study?