

Restore Such a One

Galatians 6:1

The verse above reveals a frightening reality. It indicates that any disciple can get caught up in sin. This is something that we see constantly see happening throughout the New Testament. The Christians in Galatia were warned about this (Galatians 5:4). Simon was guilty of allowing wickedness to corrupt his heart (Acts 8:18-23). Peter was guilty of hypocrisy and causing division (Galatians 2:11-14).

What are we to do when we see a brother caught up in sin? In Galatians 6:1, Paul says we are to make an effort to restore that brother.

It is our duty (Galatians 6:1).

- It is the responsibility of the spiritual person. The spiritual person does not just include elders and preachers or seasoned disciples.
- Every Christian is to be spiritual (1 Peter 2:5; Galatians 5:16-25).
- Christians are to be accountable to one another. When we notice one another in sin, God doesn't want us to sit back and do nothing. Instead, He wants us to help one another get back on track before it is too late!

We must do this in the spirit of gentleness (Galatians 6:1).

- This does not mean that we are to brush sin aside and be passive easily.
- It means that we are to examine our motives carefully. The motive for doing this must always be to help someone turn from the error of their ways (James 5:19-20). The goal must always be to speak the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15). When motives are pure and righteous, we will always do it in a spirit of gentleness.

We are to be careful (Galatians 6:1).

- Some say this is referring to carefully examining our motives before attempting to restore a brother. We need to make sure we are approaching him for the right reason.
- Others say that when restoring someone, we need to be mindful of how we would want them to approach us (Matthew 7:12).
- The most likely view is Paul is warning us not to get drawn into a brother's sin!

Conclusion:

Do you know of someone who needs to be restored? What are you doing to do about it before it is too late?

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