

“BURDEN BEARING IN THE FAMILY OF GOD”

GALATIANS 6:1-5

INTRO: The family of God is the **MOST UNIQUE ENTITY ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH**. It would take all day to explain that statement but consider just a few elements of the **FAMILY OF GOD**.

- We are all spiritually cleansed by the Blood of Jesus Christ.
- We are all bound for an eternity with Christ in Heaven.
- We are made up of people from all races, nationalities, and cultures.
- We are all indwelt by the Holy Spirit.
- We all have direct access into the presence of God.

One of the most amazing statements to me concerning the **FAMILY OF GOD** is found in Romans 12:5 which says, **“SO WE BEING MANY, ARE ONE BODY IN CHRIST, AND EVERY ONE MEMBERS ONE OF ANOTHER.”** And yet, even though that is true, so often there are divisions and hurts in the **FAMILY OF GOD**. Because, as believers in Christ, we are all members of **THE FAMILY OF GOD**, scripture teaches us that we are NOT to add burdens to each other, but are in fact to **BEAR ONE ANOTHER’S BURDENS**. And yet, there are times that through selfishness, pride, the lack of love and downright sin, we add to each other’s burdens rather than relieving each other’s burdens. Today, for a few minutes, we are going to focus on the first part of Galatians chapter 6 which teaches that **WE ARE ALL TO BEAR EACH OTHER’S BURDENS, NOT ADD TO EACH OTHER’S BURDENS.** Let’s study the text.

I. THE EXAMINATION OF THE TERMS OF THE TEXT

A. The Terms of Verse One:

1. “BRETHREN” – A general reference to all members of the Body of Christ.
2. “MAN” – “ANTHROPOS” – Humanity in general, not just the male gender.
3. “OVERTAKEN” – To be snared by or caught up in a particular sin.
4. “FAULT” – Literally “TRESPASS” meaning a deviation from God’s Will.
 - One of at least eleven words for sin in the New Testament-
5. “SPIRITUAL” – A mature Christian who walks in the Spirit (5:16)
 - A Major Theme of Galatians-
6. “RESTORE” – To repair or mend as in mending a broken bone
7. “MEEKNESS” – A humble gentle attitude
8. “CONSIDERING” – Diligent care as not to fall into sin.
9. “TEMPTATION” – An enticement to sin. (World, flesh, Devil)

B. The Terms of Verse Two:

1. “BEAR” – To carry with a long-term endurance.
2. “LAW OF CHRIST” – Christ’s sacrificial love (John 13:34)

THE SUMMARIZATION AND APPLICATION OF THE TERMS: AS MEMBERS OF EACH OTHER AND MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY OF GOD WE ARE TO LOVE OTHERS AS CHRIST HAS LOVED US AND ARE ALWAYS TO MAKE A CONTINUAL EFFORT TO EASE THE BURDENS OF OTHERS AND RESTORE THOSE WHO HAVE FALLEN INTO SIN. THERE ARE TO BE NO EXCEPTIONS!

II. THE EXPLANATION OF THE TEACHING OF THE TEXT

A. A Negative Implication (Clearly implied but not spoken in the text)

-Carnal, immature, proud and baby Christians will judge, criticize, and even destroy other Christians who have fallen into sin and in doing so will legalistically exalt themselves over the one who has fallen. (John 8:1-5)

B. A Positive Application (Clearly taught in the text) Vss. 1,2

1. Spiritual Christians will NOT condone or excuse the sin of another who has fallen but will **personally and actively reach out to the fallen**, so as to **RESTORE THEM** back into obedience. (John 8:6-11).
2. Spiritual Christians will fulfill the **LAW OF CHRIST** and will treat others who have fallen into sin as **JESUS CHRIST HAS TREATED THEM**.
 - a. Will sacrificially go out of their way to help the fallen even as Christ sacrificially went out of His way from heaven to the cross for our redemption. (Philippians 2:5-8; 1 Peter 2:21-24)
 - b. Will willingly forgive the one who has fallen even as Christ has forgiven us. (Ephesians 4:31,32)
 - c. Will personally lift up the one who has fallen as God Himself lifts us up when we have fallen. (Psalm 37:24)

C. A Personal Examination Vss. 3-5)

1. Examine one's Personal Condition – Vs. 3

-Do not be proud in dealing with others who have fallen-
(1 Corinthians 10:12)

2. Examine one's Personal Action – Vs. 4,5

-Be certain that our own spiritual life and ministry is right with God when dealing with others who have fallen-

NOTE: Verse 5 is not a contradiction of verse 2 but is an admonition for each of us to make certain that in our own life and ministry we are bearing our personal responsibility before God of being what He desires us to be.

III. THE EXERCISE OF THE TRUTH OF THE TEXT

A. In Relation to Others who have fallen into Sin

BEFORE GOD, WE MUST DO ALL WE CAN TO RESTORE ONE WHO HAS FALLEN WITHOUT NEGLECTING THEM. WE MUST NEVER SAY **"I MIND MY OWN BUSINESS"** AND REFRAIN FROM HELPING THE FALLEN BECAUSE OUR OWN BUSINESS IS TO HELP RESTORE THE FALLEN. BEFORE GOD WE ARE TO REACH OUT TO THEM, FORGIVE THEM, DISCIPLE THEM, ENCOURAGE THEM AND RESTORE THEM.

B. In Relation to Ourselves – Vs. 5

WE MUST BEAR OUR OWN BURDEN AND MAKE SURE WE ARE ALL GOD WANTS US TO BE AND NOT JUDGE OTHERS.

LESSON/APPLICATION

NEVER NEGLECT OR ADD TO THE BURDEN OF ONE WHO HAS FALLEN. REMEMBER HE/SHE IS A PART OF YOU IN CHRIST. BY PROVIDING HELP TO THE ONE WHO HAS FALLEN, YOU WILL BE HELPING YOURSELF SPIRITUALLY.