

Galatians 6

V.1

- This is a great recipe for dealing with people who have gotten caught up in sin
 - we need to care enough about each other to know when we get into trouble
 - in today's world, people have become experts at putting on a façade
 - so much of our communication is done electronically
 - even a big part of our social lives are online now
 - if you don't talk to people face to face, you won't really know if they are struggling or not
- if you do find a brother who has fallen into sin, it is your obligation to try to restore them
 - what the world expects today is for everyone to turn a blind eye to sin or to tell you that everything is ok.
 - we have become so politically correct that we are more afraid of offending someone than we are of watching them go to hell for eternity
 - the world needs people who are willing to step on someone's feelings in to help them in the long run
- but be prepared to see what someone is made of when you do this

- **Pro 9:8** Do not reprove a scoffer, or he will hate you, Reprove a wise man and he will love you.
- Pro 9:9** Give *instruction* to a wise man and he will be still wiser, Teach a righteous man and he will increase *his* learning.
 - if he is wise, he will listen to you and appreciate it
 - if he is a fool, he will respond in anger
- but the way you approach someone is critical
 - if you are condescending or abusive, you won't accomplish anything
 - you are to be gentle and humble knowing that your flesh has the same weaknesses that can be tempted to fall just like the person you are trying to restore

V.2

- real love and real friendship means that we are there for each other when times get tough
 - and Paul is specifically talking to Christians now
 - I believe that us believers fall way short in this area
 - it seems that we want to go to church on Sunday, look at everyone's plastic smiles and try to leave without getting personally involved in anyone's life
 - because if someone were to tell us what they were really struggling with, that would require us to get involved
 - and getting involved gets us out of our comfort zone
 - it will usually cost us time, money, or emotions bear someone's burdens
 - it seems to be easier to just pretend everything is ok
- When he says that we fulfill the Law of Christ by doing this, some people think Paul is referring to the Law of Moses or the 10 commandments
 - the Law of Christ can be seen in the previous chapter:
 - Gal 5:14** For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the *statement*, "YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF."
 - I know people who claim to be very spiritual and will take verses like this out of context to say that we have to try to keep the Law
 - When Jesus refers to keeping the Law, He is referring to His law:

Joh 13:34 "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

-if we have learned anything from Paul, it's that we are not to try to live by the Law

V.3

-in today's society, we are measured by our accomplishments

-how much we earn, how much we have in the bank, what all we own, how big our house is, how expensive our car is

-this is what the world uses to measure success and usually determines how popular we are with others

-Pride may sound like a small problem or a minor sin but it is one of the most offensive sins in the eyes of God

Pro 16:5 Everyone who is proud in heart is an abomination to the LORD; Assuredly, he will not be unpunished.

-Pride is the original sin

Isa 14:12 "How you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth, You who have weakened the nations!

Isa 14:13 "But you said in your heart, 'I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God, And I will sit on the mount of assembly In the recesses of the north.

Isa 14:14 'I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.'

Isa 14:15 "Nevertheless you will be thrust down to Sheol, To the recesses of the pit.

V.4-5

-I think it's ok to take pride in good things you have done

-not bragging about them to others, but feeling good within yourself knowing you have done something for the Lord

2Co 10:17 But HE WHO BOASTS IS TO BOAST IN THE LORD

-the problem comes when people boast to others about the good deeds they have done

-usually this is only done to imply "I did something good and you didn't....I'm better than you"

-no matter how good of a deed you do for God, if that is your attitude then your good deed carries no reward in heaven

Mat 6:2 "So when you give to the poor, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be honored by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full.

V.6

-people have an unrealistic view of people who devote their life to serving the Lord

-the assumption is that if they are genuinely serving God, then everything they do should be free

-I heard someone say once that if these Christian musicians were really Christians, they wouldn't charge for their cd's...they would just give them away

-the fact is that we live in a world where a certain amount of money is required to be able to function in society

-There is a difference between a making a living and taking advantage of the people

-I think this is why many people feel uneasy about supporting Christian ministries

-so many "ministries" have completely taken advantage of the generosity of believers

-Many of these ministries have annual incomes of over \$100 million and the leaders live extravagant lifestyles that don't line up the teachings of Christ

-many of these same people have also been caught in moral failure such as financial dishonesty, infidelity, homosexuality and deceit

Mar 4:18 "And others are the ones on whom seed was sown among the thorns; these are the ones who have heard the word,

Mar 4:19 but the worries of the world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.

-these people will be accountable to God for their lifestyles

-Paul is talking about supporting those who teach us the Word

-**1Co 9:7** Who at any time serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat the fruit of it? Or who tends a flock and does not use the milk of the flock?

1Co 9:8 I am not speaking these things according to human judgment, am I? Or does not the Law also say these things?

1Co 9:9 For it is written in the Law of Moses, "YOU SHALL NOT MUZZLE THE OX WHILE HE IS THRESHING." God is not concerned about oxen, is He?

1Co 9:10 Or is He speaking altogether for our sake? Yes, for our sake it was written, because the plowman ought to plow in hope, and the thresher *to thresh* in hope of sharing *the crops*.

1Co 9:11 If we sowed spiritual things in you, is it too much if we reap material things from you?

-**1Co 9:14** So also the Lord directed those who proclaim the gospel to get their living from the gospel.