

HELP THE FALLEN

Galatians 6:1-10

Introduction: Do you know someone who used to attend Sunday School? What about worship services? Or sing in the choir? Or even taught a Sunday School class? Do you know someone who at one time was faithful in attending church services but has stopped attending? Do you know someone who is discouraged, broken and has fallen back into sin? Put that person in your mind as the text is read.

I. WE ARE COMMANDED TO RESTORE THAT PERSON

1. The picture behind the text is that of setting a broken bone, to make it useful again, also like mending a broken fishing net.
2. Ever have a broken arm? If not, just imagine it.
 - What needs to be done? Shoot you? Give you a lecture about broken bones? Pay no attention to you? Run around and tell everybody that you broke your arm?
 - It has been said that the Church is the only Army that kills its' wounded.
3. What do we usually do when someone we know who is a Christian stumbles, trips or falls in their life?
 - Ignore them?
 - Give them a lecture of some sort about how not to do that again?
 - Tell them how sad you are that they fell.
 - Go tell everybody you see?
4. Moses ran from God. He killed a man.
 - Peter denied knowing Jesus and even cursed.
 - David also fell when he met Bathsheba.
 - Mark got homesick and went back to his mother.
5. At one time or other all of us have gotten out of God's will but somehow we were restored.
6. You know somebody who needs restoring and YOU are the one to help restore that person.

II. WE ARE TO USE MEEKNESS TO HELP RESTORE THAT PERSON

1. Gently! Broken bones are sensitive and the last thing a broken brother or sister needs is to be criticized or condemned.
2. Why is it that the Church family is usually the last that anybody wants to find out that they have fallen?
3. Humbly! The same thing could happen to you. Perhaps the only reason you have not fallen is that you have not had the opportunity yet.

III. RESTORE THEM SYMPATHETICALLY

1. There are some things one must do for him/her self such as repent, believe, serve, tithe, etc., but there are some things one cannot handle by him/herself.
2. Sin is a burden everyone needs help with.
 - The conscience is filled with guilt.
 - Satan, himself, accuses, "you're no good, God is through with you, nobody will accept you, etc."
 - Shame overflows the heart, prayers are unanswered, the heart is heavy.
3. When we are saved God doesn't fix us where we don't sin anymore. A Christian out of fellowship with God is the most miserable person in the world and needs a FRIEND!
 - YOU and ME!

IV. THE REASON TO RESTORE THE FALLEN IS LOVE

1. Moses gave Ten Commandments. Jesus gave ONE, "Love!"
 - Ephesians 4:32; 1 John 4:19
2. We have been restored repeatedly, therefore we ought to restore one another, out of love.

CONCLUSION:

1. The Church is a FAMILY, going through life together, rejoicing, suffering, feeling together. The blood of Jesus has made the Church ONE, uniting all hearts together.
2. When one of us is broken and hurting, everyone suffers. When one of us is joyful, then we are all joyful. A healthy church is one that mends it's broken brothers and sisters.
3. If you know of someone who has fallen, go to him/her.
4. Perhaps YOU are the broken/fallen one. When will you get back in fellowship with God and His Church again?
5. We all stumble and fall, but that does not mean we are through with God or He is through with us. We are to be brought back to God and restored to fellowship.
6. What would the Church be like if every broken brother and sister were restored?