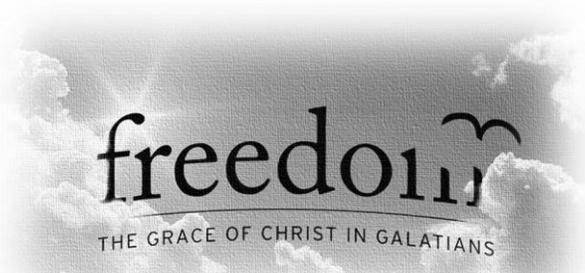


Wednesday Night BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday, May 16, 2018 – First Baptist Church Buda
Midweek Prayer Meeting & Bible Study



freedom
THE GRACE OF CHRIST IN GALATIANS

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF GALATIANS
Gentle Restoration
Galatians 5:26-6:5

How should Spirit-filled living affect/change our lives?

One of the great commands of the New Testament to Christians is “Be filled with the Spirit!” This simple yet powerful command represents a transfer of the control of our lives from ourselves to the living Lord. Yet being filled with the Spirit does not end in a private mystical experience, but rather affects our practical relationships with others. AS we are Spirit-filled, we relate correctly to fellow believers. Paul has been talking about this for several verses in Galatians 5. As we reach the end of that chapter and proceed to Galatians 6, we’ll discover some of the specific relationships a Christian sustains as the Spirit of God controls his or her life.

A QUICK REVIEW OF TRUE SPIRITUALITY (Galatians 5:22-25)

The Spirit of God, at work in the life of the submissive believer, produces fruit (qualities He causes to grow out of our lives). Not one of them comes naturally. On the contrary, the flesh produces just the opposite. The fruits formed by Him cause our relationships with others to be different... to be harmonious and smooth. Observe again the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22-23, *“²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering (patience), kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.”* *emphasis added, marking the particular characteristic featured in this study.

Here is Paul in verses 24-25... notice it, *“²⁴ And those who are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. ²⁶ Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.”* When the child of God chooses to walk by the Spirit, two results will naturally... let’s say, supernaturally... even divinely occur.

2 Results of Being a Spirit-filled/controlled Christian:

1. It changes how we live our lives each day
2. It changes how we treat others

WHEN SHOULD A CHRISTIAN TRY TO CORRECT/CONFRONT ANOTHER CHRISTIAN?

This can be a delicate and difficult subject... one that most of us would prefer to avoid altogether. Most of time our attitude and spirit is more one of... "You mind your own business and I'll mind mine!" "I don't want to get involved!" and "It's not my business or place to say!" But the truth is you're already involved is you are a part of the body of Christ. That is your brother or sister in the Lord we are talking about. The following are some helpful principles or guidelines to keep in mind as we proceed in this discussion. They are some helpful thing to keep in mind before wading into this difficult and challenging area of correcting or confronting another believer.

Discussion Questions:

1. What are some guidelines for determining whether to talk to someone about their sin or to let it go for a while?
2. Do you agree that most Christians are too passive in confronting sin? How can we grow in godly boldness?
3. What are some barriers or excuses which keep us from attempting to restore a sinning Christian? How can we overcome these?
4. How can we know if we are "spiritual" (Gal. 6:1)?

3 Helpful Reminders Before Confronting Another:

1. **Spend time in prayer** - It is wise to spend time in prayer first, to check our motivation and ask for guidance. There are times when Christians are called upon to "talk to" or try to correct a fellow Christian. Assuming we are talking about a matter of sin in a believers' life, our motive and intent should always be to bring about repentance and restoration to the erring brother or sister in Christ.
2. **Check your attitude/spirit** - Our attitude is very important. *"Be kind and tender to one another. Forgive each other, just as God forgave you because of what Christ has done" (Ephesians 4:32).* It is then that we are more able to *"speak the truth in love" (Ephesians 4:15).* In his epistle to the Galatians, Paul had a similar warning about attitude... the one we are really going to be focusing on today, *"Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted" (Galatians 6:1).* Here we see that those who are "spiritual," meaning walking in the Spirit in faith and obedience, should gently restore someone who is in sin, being always aware of how easily we can all be tempted by Satan who wants to ensnare everyone in his traps.
3. **Follow what Scripture says** - The Bible prescribes the procedure for confronting a sinning brother or sister in an extensive passage on church discipline in *Matthew 18:15-17, "If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.' If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church,*

treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector" (Matthew 18:15-17). Again, this is the procedure for confronting a sinning brother, not someone whose behavior you feel needs modifying in some way or someone who merely irritates or annoys you. On a different slant, one of the most often quoted scriptures is *"Judge not, lest ye be judged" (Matthew 7:1 KJV).* Taken out of context, the verse has been used to incorrectly justify never taking a stand on anything that would require a judgment to be made. Rather, the verse is referring to hypocritical, self-righteous, unfair kinds of judgment, especially where the confronter is guilty of the same sin as the one being confronted.

So, when should Christians talk to or try to correct a fellow Christian? When we have talked to the Lord first, have an attitude of submission and concern for the other person, and are committed to following the procedures outlined in His Word for such a situation.

SOME HELPFUL SCRIPTURAL PRINCIPLES FOR HELPING OTHER

Complete the following chart by reading/listening as the listed Scripture passages as they are read and then writing, in your own words a principles that emerges from each.

SCRIPTURE	PRINCIPLE FOR HELPING
<i>Luke 6:37-42</i>	
<i>Romans 15:1-3</i>	
<i>1 Thessalonians 5:14-15</i>	
<i>Ephesians 4:1-3</i>	
<i>Colossians 3:12-15</i>	
<i>2 Timothy 2:23-26</i>	
<i>James 3:13-18</i>	

A CAREFUL ANALYSIS OF SPIRIT-FILLED INVOLVEMENT (Galatians 5:26-6-5)

"²⁶ Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another... ¹ Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. ² Bear one another's burdens, and so

fulfill the law of Christ. ³ For if anyone thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. ⁴ But let each one examine his own work, and then he will have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another. ⁵ For each one shall bear his own load.” – Galatians 5:26-6:5

Paul, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, calls believers to a specific involvement in the lives of others. He tells us in verse 1 of Galatians 6, “*Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.*” And on either side of this verse (in Galatians 5:26 and in Galatians 6:2-5) Paul gives us two different pictures of what this looks like both positively and in negative terms as well... in other words, what we ought not to do and what we ought to do in regard to our treatment of others who may be struggling, who have fallen away, or who may be down for the count.

2 Pictures of A Believers Spirit-Filled Involvement in the Lives of Others:

- 1. Negatively: How not to treat others? (Galatians 5:26)** – Paul says in Galatians 5:26, “*Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.*” Two tendencies surface here: one is stated... conceit; the other is implied... low self-worth. Put another way, the tendencies are superiority and inferiority. Each causes us to behave differently than God would have us act or respond.

2 Negative Tendencies to Avoid in Helping Others:

- (1) Superiority = prompts “challenging” others** – The idea is that of competition... trying to prove we’re better, smarter, tougher, more creative or clever, richer wiser. When we approach others with an air of superiority our help may become oppressive, humiliating, and a superior spirit may actually do more harm than good defeating the person you are attempting to help.
- (2) Inferiority = prompts “envying” others** – The thought is one of “jealousy” over another’s gifts, affluence, taste, position, possessions, achievements... in other words our attitudes may be “who am I to try to help him or her.” It may come from a place of feeling inferior because of a recognition of our own sinfulness or smallness (inferiority) and the other person seemingly perceived superior status, position and respect as opposed to ours.

Observation: Superiority says, “I’m better than you are and I’ll prove it.” On the other hand, inferiority thinks, “You’re better than I am and I’ll resent it.”

- 2. Positively: How to treat others? (Galatians 6:2-5)** – Paul writes in Galatians 6:2-5, “*Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. ³ For if anyone thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. ⁴ But let each one examine his own work, and then he will have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another. ⁵ For each one shall bear his own load.*” Nothing good can develop apart from “gentleness,” which stands in stark contrast to rivalry. The Spirit’s control causes us to think, “You are important to God. Through Him, I love you and desire to serve you.” Gentleness removes the need to compete... removes hostility toward others. What should you and I do? Paul fleshes it out for us in verse 2-5... tells us what “gentleness” looks like and how we should treat others.

3 Reminders of How to Treat Others:

- (1) **Bear one another's burdens (v.2)** – Paul says in verse 2, “² *Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.*” By implication Paul suggests that everyone has burdens too heavy to handle in solo fashion. ***An Important Word to the Proud: God might place a burden-bearer next to you and you might lose out on this benefit. Why? Because you might unconsciously shove him or her aside, thinking “I’ll bear up under it without saying a word,” or “I’ll take all my weights to the Lord.” As we should support others with gentleness, we should also receive support the same way... with gentleness. We all need each other and we all need help/support from the brothers and sisters in Christ (church) He has blessed us with.***
- (2) **Realize we are like everyone else (v.3)** – Paul says in verse 3, “³ *For if anyone thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself.*” When people wrongly believe that they are above or below others, they render themselves useless as burden-carriers. Motivation for supporting others’ hurts becomes lost, dismantled.
- (3) **Avoid comparison with other (v.4)** – Notice Paul’s words in verse 4, “⁴ *But let each one examine his own work, and then he will have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another.*” The apostle suggests that “each one examine his own work” and not that of another. Believers must first be sure their lives are right with God before giving spiritual help to others. As Jesus put it in Luke 6:42, “*Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Brother, let me remove the speck that is in your eye,’ when you yourself do not see the plank that is in your own eye? Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck that is in your brother’s eye.*” Paul’s phrase, “... and then he will have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another” may seem a bit unusual and hard to understand for us. Paul is saying that if a believer rejoices or boasts, it should be only boasting in the Lord for what God has done in him... in his own life, not for what he supposedly has accomplished compared to other believers. He is talking about spiritual pride that can cause one to think they are “more qualified” than another to help someone because of their perceived spiritual advancement.

NOTE: *In English, verses 2 and 5 of chapter 6 may appear to be in conflict or to contradict each other... (v.2) “bear one another’s burdens...” and (v.5) “each one shall bear his own load (or burden).” Charles Ryrie states that the difference is that “burdens” in verse 2 refers to excess burdens which we need to share with each other, while the term “load” in verse 5 (a different Greek word for “burdens”) refers to the normal amount of daily concerns each must carry himself (Charles Ryrie, The Ryrie Study Bible, NASB, pg. 1777-footnote)*

A NEEDED CLARIFICATION OF CONFRONTATION (Galatians 6:1)

What is meant by helping a person who has fallen into a trap or has been caught in a trespass? The term “confrontation” is unfortunately associated with harshness, but it should not be. Perhaps the following suggestions will help us to get a healthy perspective on that which Paul suggests is of great value in human relationships... confrontation.

4 Points of Clarification on Paul’s Idea of Loving Confrontation: (Why don’t we like the idea of confrontation?)

1. **Who does it? “*You who are spiritual*”** - This means those who have the characteristics and qualities of Galatians 5:22-23... the fruit of the Spirit. Incidentally, this is not a reference to an office, a role of authority, or one who is the people’s choice.
2. **How is it to be done? “*In a spirit of gentleness*”** - The one actively submitting to the control of the Holy Spirit will be gentle. When one is gentle, he is not passive, retiring, or uninvolved. To the contrary, he is equitable, moderate, fair, forbearing, and not insisting on the letter of the law. A gentle person... without harshness, severity, or abuse... engages in straight talk with the person caught in the trespass so as to help him get out of its grip. A gentle person is characterized in three ways...

3 Characteristics of a Gentle Person Biblically Speaking:

- (1) **Submissive to God**
 - (2) **Teachable**
 - (3) **Considerate**
3. **What is the goal? “(To) restore such a one”** – In the days of Paul, the word “restore” was used in a variety of ways... mending torn fishing nets, equipping a fleet of ships, performing repair work on a body, perfecting human character. The goal of restoration is to bring back what is missing so that it’s effective once again.
 4. **Why is it delicate?**

3 Reasons Loving Confrontation is Difficult:

- (1) **Because we are dealing with a human being –**
- (2) **Because we ourselves are not perfect models of human righteousness –**
- (3) **Because our purpose is to restore, not destroy -**