

1 Peter 5:7: "Cast all your anxieties on Him because he cares for you." *Take our concerns to God in prayer so He can manage each one.*

John 13:34-35: "A new command I give you: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." *Love for others fulfills the law of Christ and is not optional. It is the way the world sees Christ and His followers.*

Galatians 6:1: "Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted." *The role of those who live by the Spirit is to serve in humility, not to correct in pride.*

Ephesians 4:15: "Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of Him who is the head, that is, Christ." *Jesus spoke boldly, yet His words were always full of grace and truth (John 1:14) and motivated by genuine concern for the whole person. Speaking truth as He did involves presenting it in a way that encourages growth and focuses on Christ.*

Galatians 5:22-23: "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Against such things there is no law." *The believer whose life is empowered by the Holy Spirit will demonstrate true love through the other fruit, including gentleness. It is only through the work and gifting of the Holy Spirit that we, as Christians, can reflect the beautiful image of Jesus Christ to this fallen world.*

Proverbs 16:18: "Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall." *Pride was the original sin. It involves places our own meager abilities above those of God.*

1 Corinthians 10:12: "So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall." *Christians are never unaffected by temptation and sin.*

John 16:33: "I have told you these things, so that in Me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." *Jesus tells us that we WILL have trouble. Trials, conflicts, and persecutions will come. But rest assured. Jesus has the victory!*

Psalms 55:22: "Cast your cares on the Lord and He will sustain you; He will never let the righteous be shaken."

Galatians 6:2-3: "Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. If anyone thinks they are something when they are not, they deceive themselves." *Typically, burdens are exceptionally heavy loads. When we carry each other's burdens, helping someone overcome temptation, pride, or spiritual failure, we are doing the work of God and fulfilling the entire "law of Christ". Thinking of ourselves as too important to inconvenience ourselves or better than someone else we rob them and us of the blessings of serving others, while displeasing God.*

Galatians 6:2 – “Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.” Although God bears our burdens (1 Pet. 5:7), He does some of His best work through people. In doing the work of God, we fulfill the law of Christ and love others well (John 13:34-35).

As spirit-led believers, we have been blessed with certain responsibilities. We are called through the Spirit to live out our faith in biblical community. Life in the Spirit involves healthy relationships and practical deeds in love for others, especially within the “household of faith” (6:10). God saves us and empowers us by the Spirit in order that we may live in community with believers who fulfill His mission in the world.

1. **Restoring Others Through Gentleness (6:1).** As a church family, we are each responsible to care for one another spiritually. This includes speaking the truth in love.

The Aim of Restoration. The goal for restoring others is to help those who are broken be put back together so they may be of service. This doesn’t mean that we actively seek those who are spiritually fractured as a means to exploit them and repair them on our own. That could lead to our own sin of pride. Loving others well is to address sins that cause destruction to the individual, their home, or the church (Eph. 4:15). When confronting another believer who is in sin, we should aim for repentance from sin and restored relationships through seeking God’s strength and wisdom.

The Attitude of Restoration. The sister aiming to restore another should first be *spiritual* herself. We are to approach leading another back to Jesus with an attitude of humility. Only the person who humbly repents can help those who are struggling. Jesus is opposed to arrogant self-righteousness. The restorer should also be *gentle*. Gentleness is a fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23), which implies that such a virtue develops as we abide in Jesus personally. He makes us gentle, like Himself. The restorer is also to be *careful*, “watching out for yourself so you also won’t be tempted” (Gal. 6:1). We must always be aware that we ourselves are not immune to fall and we must persevere in guarding our own lives (Prov. 16:18, 1 Cor. 10:12).

As a church and fellow believers, we are one body. The whole body of Christ is affected by one another’s sins. Sin always affects others. If you are the one being led astray, seek help. It is not only for your own good, but for the good of the whole church. Thankfully, restoration is possible for us all because of Christ! *Who in your life needs spiritual restoration?*

2. **Bearing Others’ Burdens with Humility (6:2-5).** The Gospel tells us repeatedly that we will have burdens and suffering in this fallen world (John 16:33), and to cast our burdens on the Lord, knowing that He will sustain us (Ps. 55:22). In humility, we are also to share our burdens and support fellow believers as they experience their own.

Carrying the burdens of others is a command to all believers (6:2a) and how we fulfill the law of Christ (6:2b). We should not be burdened by this command but should delight in it and realize that we have power to fulfill it through the Spirit’s ministry in our lives. The greatest hinderance to bearing the burdens of others is often pride. Pride, or thinking too highly of ourselves, will create a heart that resists humble service to the church family (6:3).

2 Corinthians 10:12, 18: v12 “We do not dare to classify or compare ourselves with some who commend themselves. When they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they are not wise.” v18 “For it is not one who commends himself who is approved, but the one whom the Lord commends.” *We are to seek to understand and abide by God’s standard, not our own.*

Galatians 6:4: “Each one should test their own actions. Then they can take pride in themselves alone, without comparing themselves to someone else,”

Galatians 6:5: “for each one should carry their own load.” *Each believer has their own personal responsibilities. As we give help and receive help, we must not neglect our own responsibilities before God.*

Galatians 6:6: “Nevertheless, the one who receives instruction in the word should share all good things with their instructor.” *Pastors are expected to serve their church fully. Their congregation should support them so that they can fully dedicate their time and energy to serve and are not expected to labor in the secular world as well.*

2 Timothy 4:2: “Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke, and encourage – with great patience and careful instruction.” *Teachers are to be prepared to teach Truth effectively.*

Galatians 2:10: “All they asked was that we should continue to remember the poor, the very thing I had been eager to do all along.” *A key component of the Gospel is to share with those in need.*

Galatians 6:7: “Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.” *Although the enemy is the ultimate deceiver, we can deceive ourselves and mock God when we knowingly sin and act as if there is no penalty to be paid.*

Galatians 6:8: “Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.” *Allowing our mind to harbor a grudge, nurse a grievance, entertain an impure fantasy, or wallow in self-pity, we are sowing to the flesh. Holiness is a harvest; whether you reap it or not depends on what and where we sow.*

Galatians 6:9-10: “Let us not become weary in doing for good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.” *Paul encourages believers to stay in the good fight. Our responsibility is to sow the seed, but the harvest belongs to God.*

2 Corinthians 8:9: “For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.” *God does not need the gift of the faithful to accomplish His work, but He does generously allow those gifts to be used toward that end.*

We have all heard that comparison is the thief of joy. Comparison is also unwise, fuels pride and hinders spiritual growth. Instead of comparing ourselves to others, we are called to instead measure our life by the laws of Christ to cultivate a humble attitude (2 Cor. 10:12, 18). Humility supports sacrificial service to others (6:4). One comparison we do need to make is in the “weight” of the burden. Some things are so heavy we cannot bear them alone; others are light and need to be handled on our own. Spirit-filled believers help others with their heavy burdens and take responsibility for their own light ones, remembering that God gives us trials as a blessing. We will all one day give account to God for our actions (6:5). *Who can you help?*

3. **Sharing of God’s Word Generously (6:6).** As teachers and receivers of God’s Word, we each have certain responsibilities.

Teachers are to share the fundamentals of the faith and speak God’s Word in truth directly from the Gospel (2 Tim. 4:2). In addition, teachers are to also serve those in need (Gal. 2:10, 6:10). The church is to be devoted to being Spirit-led through teaching the Gospel and service.

We are all students or *receivers* of God’s Word. Paul speaks of the responsibility of the receiver to support the teacher. One of the main ways for us to do this is through prayer. Pray for our church leaders, small group leaders, and those who mentor us. We do this because we love the Word of God and want to see it spread to the ends of the earth. *Who can you pray for today?*

4. **Personal Holiness from Reaping What We Sow (6:7-8).** Paul cautions that lack of personal holiness damages the family of faith.

Holiness is a harvest with the seeds being our thoughts and deeds. Sowing is in the daily, intentional choices we make, and the harvest is dependent on what we sow. Paul warns, “God cannot be mocked” (6:7). Regardless of who you are, you reap what you sow – your sin will find you out. In contrast, “whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life” (6:8). Therefore, choose your fields wisely by guarding your inputs. *What influences do you allow into your life? Are they of the Spirit or of the flesh?* Sowing in the Spirit will reap the reward of a Spirit-controlled life.

5. **Practical Goodness (6:9-10).** In closing, Paul provides some encouragement to not grow “weary in doing good” (6:9).

Paul urges us to continue to love others, resist bickering, reject false teachers, bear one another’s burdens, preach the gospel, and serve faithfully. We are to keep doing good and watch God work. We are called by God to be Spirit-led. Just as Jesus restored us from our broken relationship with God, he continues to restore our souls now. He alone kept God’s law in our place, and then died in our place, removing the penalty of sin that was on us, so there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus (2 Cor. 8:9). Jesus constantly sowed in the Spirit. He gives us the example, and He gives us the Spirit to live out these responsibilities. *Where have you grown weary?*

God saves us and empowers us by the Spirit in order that we may live in community with believers who fulfill His mission in the world to love Him and love others well.