

Galatians 6:1-5 When To Help; When Not To Help; Legalist Need Not Apply

(1)

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Remember one of the main points for writing Galatians?

To stop the deadly soul-killing teaching of prideful legalism.

A legalist is unlikely to help restore anybody. If they do make the attempt, it will come across trite, condescending or patronizing.

Example: Pharisees. Legalism is about pride in censorship. They "count" their good deeds and relish when others fail their standards, which they secretly fail all the time. Condescending.

The man born blind. John 9: 34 "They answered him, 'You were born entirely in sins, and are you teaching us?' so they put him out."

Mark 3: 1-6 Jesus angry and grieved. No wonder Paul wants those tempted to legalism to abandon it.

Practical application of the grace of God in our text:

Text Galatians 6:1-5

Let's deal with a "word- defining" problem first. The word "BURDEN" is both in 6:2 and 6:5 in the King James Version. But the Greek is very exact here.

6:2 Is "BA RE"-βαρε A crushing load; too heavy to carry alone

6:5 Is "PHORTIAN"-φορτίον A backpack; one's expected personal load of responsibility to carry.

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6:1 "if" third class conditional sentence. Meaning it is possible.

One of the fruits of the spirit is "gentleness."

"Looking to yourselves" How do we do that?

6:3 The direct connection is to 6:1 . "For if anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself." Those in a vulnerable position; in need of help after a fall will not come to a proud legalist.

Legalist have a preoccupation with their own dignity and perceived rank and standing.

Legalist will not do things that make them look bad.

Legalist are known by what they do NOT do. Visual vices that they are NOT doing. They are not know by positive acts of love. They forget that there are sins of commission and omission.

Romans 12: 10-16 Note the aggressive doing of good!

Read 6:3 A rebuke to the attitudes of a legalist who are not of a temper to restore a fallen, repentant brother, or bear the embarrassment of continued association with them. They forget grace quite often.

Result? 5:15, 26 When someone falls they feel an inner satisfaction and pride that they did not fall in the same way. If someone gets more attention than them then they work to reduce that person's standing. They hate when others are honored!

6:3 continued,,,

Don't deceive yourself! (I Cor. 3:18) Does that mean that everybody is nothing? NO.

The right evaluation?

Romans 12:3 "For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think as to have sound judgement, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith."

I Cor. 4:1-7 Grace wins!