

Bearing One Another's Burdens

Galatians 6:1-2

I. We Must Bear One Another's Burdens *By Restoring One Another* (vs. 1)

1. Paul tells us *who should be restored* (vs. 1a).
 - 1) The spiritual are those who are trusting in Christ alone for salvation (2:20-21).
 - 2) The spiritual are those who have received the Spirit by faith (3:2-3).
 - 3) The spiritual are those who are walking in the Spirit and battling the flesh (5:16-17).
 - 4) The spiritual are those who are demonstrating the fruit of the Spirit (5:22-23).
 - 5) The spiritual are those who humbly realize that they have not yet arrived at a point where they themselves cannot fall into sin (5:25-26; 6:1d).
2. Paul tells us *who should do the restoring* (vs. 1b).
 - 1) Restoration must be done *caringly*. Paul says that restoration should be done “in a spirit of gentleness.”
 - 2) Restoration must be done *cautiously*. Paul says “considering yourself lest you also be tempted.”

II. We Must Bear One Another's Burdens *By Loving One Another* (vs. 2b)

Paul means by this that we must *love one another*, which becomes clear when remember what he has said earlier in the context (5:13-14: see also John 13:34-35 and Leviticus 19:17-18). But if loving others is the most important command, and restoring others is *just one application* of how we lovingly bear one another's burdens, we may assume that loving others will certainly involve bearing one another's burdens in other ways as well.

- 1) We should bear one another's *economic burdens*. A good example of this would be Paul's challenge to the Corinthian church concerning giving (e.g. 2 Corinthians 8:8-15).
- 2) We should bear one another's *emotional burdens*. I think we can find a couple of examples of Paul's teaching about this elsewhere in Scripture as well (e.g. 2 Corinthians 1:3-5; Romans 12:15).