

# Love Restores!

## Galatians 6:1

East Berlin Community Church  
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### Introduction

- Trip to the Airforce Museum at the Wright-Patterson Air Base in Dayton, Ohio
- What does it take to restore a believing man or woman who has fallen into sin?
  - We, as Christians, sin. 1 John 1:8-10; Eph. 6:11; James 1:14; 1 John 2:1-2
  - The pursuit of holiness should be our number one priority.
  - We also have a responsibility for the spiritual welfare of our brothers and sisters in Christ. Ephesians 5:11; Titus 2:15; 2 Timothy 4:1
  - No one likes to be rebuked or disciplined.—Hebrews 12:10-11
  - Jesus established the pattern for discipline—Matthew 18:15-17
  - Discipline applies to all, including those in leadership—1 Timothy 5:19-20
- We've been called to LIBERTY. We are free to *"serve one another through love"*.—Galatians 5:13

### Love Restores!

- A. The Nature of the Offense—*"If a man is overtaken in any trespass"*
1. Paul is not thinking of an actual case, but hypothetically, it's possible to stumble into sin.
  2. Key is "overtaken"—that is, the sin has overtaken us. We are in bondage to it and cannot escape on our own.
- B. The Nature of Restoration—*"you who are spiritual restore such a one"*
1. Restoration must be done by the right person—the *"spiritual"* Christian
    - a. A Spiritual Christian is one who is *walking in the Spirit* manifesting *the fruit of the Spirit*.
      - 1) The difference between a "carnal" Christian and a "spiritual" one—1 Corinthians 3:1-3
      - 2) Spiritual maturity and the "spiritual" Christian
      - 3) Any believer, at any point in their spiritual growth, can be a "spiritual" believer.
    - b. A Spiritual Christian is one who has dealt with their own glaring, obvious faults—Matthew 7:1-6
  2. Restoration must be done in the right manner with the right attitudes.
    - a. Must be done GENTLY-- *"in a spirit of gentleness"*
      - 1) We are called to "restore", not demolish nor destroy. Hebrews 12:12-13
      - 2) The process of restoration: confront -> repentance -> God's forgiveness -> Our forgiveness -> Encouragement -> Reaffirming love -> Full restoration
      - 3) Whole process is delicate work. Must therefore be done gently. 2 Timothy 2:24-26; James 1:19-20; Ephesians 4:29; Colossians 4:6
    - b. Must be done GUARDED-LY—*"considering yourselves lest you also be tempted"*
      - a. We must never think, *"I would never sin like that."*
      - b. The "common" temptations we all face—1 Corinthians 10:6, 11-13
  3. Restoration is ALL of our responsibility.
    - a. It is the work of a biblical counselor who helps struggling Christians deal with sin issues.
    - b. It is the work of a pastor who spiritually and lovingly cares for the "sheep" under his care.
    - c. But it is the responsibility of ALL "spiritual" Christians! We are our "brother's keeper!"