

Woodland Baptist Church
 Morning Worship – November 25, 2012
 Galatians 6:1-5 Fruit in Action - Burden Bearing

1) INTRODUCTION

- a. Now that Paul has given us his doctrine and shown us the final contrast of the fruit of the spirit as opposed to the works of the flesh, we now enter into the final few verses of this letter to the Galatians where he gives us something we desperately need...a “how to” in dealing with those that have been ensnared in the Works of the flesh.
- b. What Paul writes in this Chapter technically falls under the doctrinal category of redemptive church discipline.

2) READ GALATIANS 6:1-5

- a. **1 Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. 2 Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. 3 For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. 4 But let each one test his own work, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor. 5 For each will have to bear his own load.**
 - i. Remember what Paul just said...If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.
 - ii. Paul will now illustrate a practical example of the fruit of the Spirit by explaining how someone should be treated that has fallen into sin and been caught.

3) Verses 15 - True believers have a REDEMPTIVE and ACCOUNTABLE mind

- i. Remember, as we have always said, and as Scripture testifies, no one should know better than Christians do, the horrible reality of being under the bondage of sin and the struggle that every human endures as we fight against the sins of the flesh - **Ephesians 2:1-5** -And you were dead in the trespasses and sins 2 in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— 3 **among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.** 4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved.
- ii. We as Christians, should understand better than anyone - REDEMPTION!

- b. **1 Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. [Redemptive mind] Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. [Accountable mind]**

1. This passage is excellent for helping us understand the process of redemptive church discipline: Who is suppose to lead in helping restore the individual struggling with sin, what to do with him, how it is to be done.
2. Your life and your struggles is our business as a church!

iii. What are we talking about? - anyone...*Caught in any transgression*

1. **Anyone** [anthropos] - human being - we are called to bear the burdens of any random person within the Body of Christ & others that God may put in our path.
2. **Caught** [prolambano] to anticipate something; to detect, to surprise, to catch, to be discovered.
3. **Transgression** [paraptoma] offense or sin; when a person transgresses the will of God by breaching his revealed will in His law or Word.

a. Some examples:

- (a) the recent sex scandal - Petraus, FBI, CIA
- (b) The recent Libya situation - all that craziness
- (c) Have you ever been caught in a transgression?

iv. **WHO** is to be instrumental in restoring them? *You who are spiritual notice it does NOT say you who are religious!*

1. People who are not truly born again, who are living in empty, dark, deceptive and demonic works righteousness will normally respond ONE of two ways?
 - a. Wipe it out - Vicious and harsh condemning response, almost like persecution - wanting to quickly pounce on the situation with little to know discussion among each other of how the Bible teaches to deal with it and handle it redemptively - *Saul's hatred of Christianity.*
 - b. Completely ignore it - pretend that it doesn't exist; doesn't matter whose involved or who it affects; they just ignore it - *"it's not my problem" "I don't know and I don't want to know."*
2. Those who are **Spiritual** [pneumatikos] one who has received God's spirit and lives in accordance with His precepts (should define every beating heart claiming Christ!)
 - a. This is not to be used as an excuse to bail out - We must not immediately throw our hands up and say, "well I'm not spiritual, it's not my job."

- b. That's not what Paul is saying - he is saying that those of us that have shown spiritual maturity should be the ones to take the lead in dealing with and developing a redemptive plan for those that are "caught in a transgression."
- c. The question here is, How would I know if that's me? Ask another question, How is your life recently?
 - i. Are there any fairly recent sinful scandals in your life that have brought reproach upon your walk with God?
 - ii. Has your name been in the paper lately or on a list somewhere, where someone in authority has been charged with watching you?
 - iii. What would your wife say about your involvement in the process of redemption?
 - iv. What would your ex-wife/husband say about your involvement?
 - v. What would your Mom or Dad say?
 - vi. How is the spiritual stability of your character?
 - vii. Can you control your tongue or do you constantly drag things out of the past to torture people with even when there is clear evidence that they are trying to change?
- d. No one is perfect, we are not seeking perfection, but we do need to have some amount of Christian maturity and wisdom that would enable you to be able to go to someone "caught in a transgression" with particular sins and help them out of it without causing more damage or confusion? [Major is a perfect example]
- v. **WHAT** is to be done? *Restore him gently [spirit of gentleness]*
 - 1. **Restore** [katartizo] to make someone completely adequate or sufficient for something;
 - 2. **gently** [prautes] to treat someone in a spirit of gentleness as opposed to treating them harshly [Fruit of the Spirit]
 - (a) Restore him to his former condition - which means as if he/she had not sinned - which is impossible without Christ and His Spirit.
 - (b) The words here were used in ancient time to describe mending a net that is broken or healing a fractured bone.
 - 3. If we detect somebody doing something wrong, we are not to stand by doing nothing on the pretext that it is none of our business and we have no wish to be involved. Nor are we to despise or condemn him/her in our hearts and if he suffers for his misdemeanor, say 'serves him right' or 'Let him stew in his own juice.' Nor are we to report him to the minister, or gossip about him to our friends in the congregation. We are to restore him/her to the right path - **very delicate procedure.**

- (a) **Matthew 18:15-17** shows us the process - if he rejects the admonitions, then his fellowship standing with the congregation will soon be threatened.
 - (b) Primary question - Timing? This is not defined by the Scriptures, which is one of the reasons "those that are spiritual" should be involved.
- vi. **HOW** it is to be done? *Keep watch on yourself - you too can be tempted* [accountable]
 - 1. **Keep watch** [skopeo] look for or notice; to be ready to look for future dangers or needs with the implication of preparedness to respond appropriately.
 - a. You hear this called "watch care" - we are very good at watching each other's physical health, but are horrible at watching each other's spiritual health.
 - b. **1 Timothy 4:16** - Keep a **close watch on yourself** and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers.
 - 2. **Can be tempted** [peirazo] to try or attempt something that is against their better judgement; to tempt to trap, lead someone to sin.
 - a. We can become an enabler to their sin, unable to properly and redemptively speak to them leading them away from their sin and possibly prevent needed consequences from befalling them that may help them realize their deep need to change.
 - i. **Romans 13:4** -But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer.
 - ii. One of the ways God got my attention was through the wrath of the state on drunk driving - paying fines, jail time, suspension of my license, unable to drive...high insurance rates.
 - b. We can become a partaker of the same sin - in trying to steer them away from it, Satan entraps the one attempting to redeem; the rescuer now needs rescuing. We lack the ability to be gently confrontational...we end up giving approval to what they do.
 - i. Go in with help - none of us are beyond temptation.
 - c. Believers are to have REDEMPTIVE and ACCOUNTABLE minds.
- 4) **Verses 16-18** - True believers are SACRIFICIAL and HUMBLE with each other
 - a. **2 Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ** [Sacrificial aspect]. **3 For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself** [Humble aspect].

- a. Bear one another's burdens? I thought Christ did that?
2. This objection can always be made. Are we not to cast our burdens upon the Lord and allow Christ to take our burdens away? Yes these are true statements, but as many of us know that have been through the fires of persecution, famine or betrayal...we know we have the inner peace that is only provided by the Lord...but we also need the physical love and compassion that comes from our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ on this earth...that make God and Christ real to us physically.
 - a. **1 John 3:17** - But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?
3. How many times do we read in Scripture where Paul says something like...
 - a. but God, who comforts the downcast, comforted us by the coming of Titus...2 Cor 7:5,6
 - b. That is why I sent you Timothy, my beloved and faithful child in the Lord, to remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach them everywhere in every church...1 Cor 4:17
 - c. But you know Timothy's proven worth, how as a son with a father he has served with me in the gospel..Phil 2:22
 - d. Luke alone is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is very useful to me for ministry...2 Timothy 4:11
 - i) **John Stott** - "God's comfort was not given to Paul through his private prayer and waiting upon the Lord, but through the companionship of a friend and through the good news which he brought."
 - ii) There is no question that God has put us together in community to bear one another's burdens...

ii. Bear one another's burden

1. **Bear** [Bastazo] pick up or to carry; to bear or carry a relatively heavy or burdensome object.
2. **Burdens** [Baros] physical weight or metaphorically used to describe suffering, financial strife, relational issues, persecution...etc.

iii. Fulfill the law of Christ

1. **Fulfill** [anapleroo] to complete or fulfill; to conform to some standard as a means of demonstrating its purpose.
2. **Law of Christ** [nomos de Christos] **John 13:34 - A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.**

- i) This shows us that to love one another as Christ loved us may lead us not to some heroic, spectacular deed of self-sacrifice, but to the much more mundane and unspectacular ministry of burden-bearing.
 - ii) **Martin Luther** - "Christians must have strong shoulders and mighty bones - sturdy enough, that is, to carry heavy burdens.
 - iii) Other thoughts - It is NOT the job of the government or the secular field to fill the following needs:
 - (a) Ministry to the poor - the church's burden to bear.
 - (b) Failing marriages - the church's burden to bear, not high priced attorneys.
 - (c) Children, women, babies, widows and orphans in distress - the church's burden to bear, not CPS and DHS!
- (1) One Flesh Ministry - Woodland Baptist Church - launch next year.
3. There are two major obstacles to bearing one another's burdens: *prideful self deception* and *failure to self examine honestly*
- i) Self deception - *Think something when he is nothing - he deceives himself* [Humility]
 - (b) What does this mean? It seems to imply that if we do not or will not bear one another's burdens, it is because we think we are above it - so, Paul says, if we think we are something...when we are in fact nothing...we are self-deceived.
 - (1) Are we above getting involved in helping the poor? Are we above getting involved in marriages that are failing? Are we above taking on needy abandoned children?
 - (2) He **deceives** himself [phrenapatao] mislead concerning the truth; to cause someone to have misleading or erroneous views of the truth.
 - b. **Romans 15:1-3** -We who are strong have an obligation to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves. 2 Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to build him up. 3 For Christ did not please himself, but as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached you fell on me."
 - c. **Philippians 2:3-4** - Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. 4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

5) **Verses 19-20 - True Believers SELF examine before examining OTHERS**

- i. Instead of scrutinizing our neighbor and comparing ourselves with him, we are to test our own work for we have to bear our own load.
- b. **4 But let each one test his own work, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor. 5 For each will have to bear his own load.**
 - i. *Test his own work* - examine your own deeds
 - 1. **Test** [dokimazo] examine or prove; to try to determine the purity / truth of something by examination and testing.
 - 2. **work** [ergon] that which one normally does; deeds in action
 - ii. *Reason to boast in himself alone not his neighbor* - then you can say confidently that you are fulfilling what God has called you to do first and foremost - sounds like Paul may be saying this about himself.
 - 1. **boast** [kauchema] *the right to boast*
 - iii. *Each will have to bear his own load* [not a contradiction of his earlier statement - these are two different words]
 - 1. **bear his own load** - [phortion] - this is a common term for a man's "pack" or something he would normally carry in day to day operations - not an unusually burdensome load.

6) **CLOSE**

- a. True believers have a **REDEPTIVE** and **ACCOUNTABLE** mind
- b. True believers are **SACRIFICIAL** and **HUMBLE** with each other
- c. True Believers **SELF** examine before examining **OTHERS**