

THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

Galatians 6:1-5

Lesson #16

Bearing a brother's burden

11/12/2017

Ephesians 4

"1 I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, entreat you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, 2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing forbearance to one another in love, 3 being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."

Christian unity is a PRIORITY and calls for TOLERANCE.

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This raises many questions.

1. On issues of style, taste, that are not sin - **How am I to relate with brothers and sisters who do not see things the way I do?**
2. On public policy in a secular state - **Over what issues should I take a political stand?**
3. On issues of sinning believers - **When and how am I to confront and correct others?**

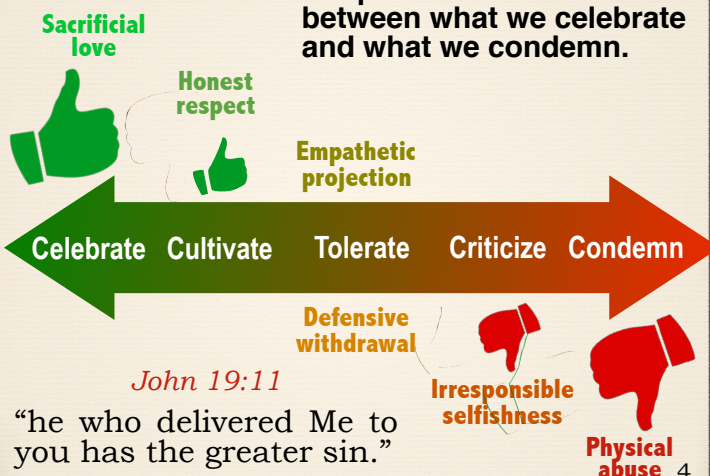


This raises three questions.

1. On issues of style, taste, that are not sin - **Understand and follow some basic "Body life" principles.** (see the rest of Eph. and 1 Cor.12-14).
2. On public policy in a secular state - **Don't confuse church and state.** (see apttoteach.org Hot Topics - Christian Ethics)
3. On issues of sinning believers - **When and how am I to confront and correct others?**



1. Respect the **CONTINUUM** between what we celebrate and what we condemn.



With respect to fellow believers:

When & how should I forebear?



When & how should I confront?



2. **Personal sacrifice** (bearing one another's burdens) will be required in both.

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Galatians 6:2

“**Bear one another’s burdens**, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ.”

1 Peter 2:24

“and **he himself bore our sins** in His body on the cross, . . .”

Hebrews 2:18

“For since **he himself was tempted in that which he has suffered**, he is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted.”

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3. Learn from Paul’s example.

✓ **Some sins are not to be tolerated and may call for social separation.**

- 2 Jn.9-11 **Going beyond Christ** - adding to, so as to discount the Gospel.
- 1 Tim.1:19-20 **Blasphemy** - open disrespect for things holy (shipwrecked faith).
- 1 Cor.5:1-13 **Open moral autonomy** - sexual immorality.
- 2 Thess.3:6,11,14-15 **Freeloading** - refusing to work and living off others.
- Gal.1:8-9 **Preaching another gospel** - denying the grace of God in Christ.
- Rom.16:17-18, Titus 3:9-11 **Troublemaking** - sowing discord among the brethren.

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✓ **Some sins are not to be tolerated and may call for social separation.**

Matters requiring public church discipline share common characteristics.

- ✓ They are **OPEN** issues (public) issues that affect many.
- ✓ They are **HEART** issues (spiritual rebellion) issues.
- ✓ They are **DESTRUCTIVE** issues (damaging) the whole church.
- ✓ They are **PERSISTENT** issues (remain) unrepentant.

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Galatians 6

Who? those who are spiritual adults (mature).

What? bringing back - a process which needs time

“¹ Brethren, even if a man is caught (overtaken) in any trespass, you (plural) who are **spiritual**, restore (bring back) such a one . . .”

1. Not everyone is **responsible** to address the sins of others.

- ✓ This is best left to spiritual shepherds.
- ✓ If you are not a part of the problem or the solution back off.
- ✓ Gossip and Slander just make things harder.
- ✓ It takes more than the gift of discerning sin to restore a sinner.

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3. Learn from Paul’s example.

✓ **Most of Paul’s correction is in the form of instruction how to live in community.** (Eph.4-6)

✓ **Many sins call for correction with forbearance.**

- secondary doctrine like prophecy,
- pride & selfish behavior,
- marginalization of gifts,
- lawsuits,
- divorce,
- eating food offered to idols,
- misuse of spiritual gifts

✓ **Galatians 6:1-5 is an example of Paul’s advice.**

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Qualifications for a correcting ministry

1. **Experience** - Understanding the dynamics of the spiritual life.
2. **Relationship** - A trusted connection with the one being corrected.
3. **Listening** - Sensitivity to address the roots of personal failure.
4. **Wisdom** - Knowing how to wisely confront, correct, and restore.

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Qualifications for a correcting ministry

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Some that help us understand others

- **Goals** - What are you trying to achieve? We want to help you identify and reach basic longings in God's way and without fear.
- **Fears** - What are you trying to avoid? We want to help you take the risk of trusting God and facing down your fears.
- **Narrative** - Tell me your story? We want to understand how you got to this place in life.
- **Consequences** - Do you understand the consequences of your convictions / conduct?

Note the way Jesus addressed sinners.

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1. Not everyone is **responsible** to address the sins of others.
2. The call is to **restore** not condemn.
 - ✓ Move toward don't withdraw from.
 - ✓ Unprotected dignity makes restoration very difficult.
 - ✓ Public exposure is wise **ONLY** as a last resort.
 - ✓ Bring back the fallen don't cast out or shut out.
 - ✓ Repentance should bring an end to chastisement.

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Galatians 6

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"¹ Brethren, even if a man is caught (**overtaken**) in any trespass, you (**plural**) who are **spiritual**, restore (**bring back**) such a one . . ."

How? gentleness, humility, shared responsibility in a spirit of **gentleness**; each one **looking to yourself**, lest you too be tempted. ² **Bear one another's burdens**, and thus 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 examine his own work, and then he will have reason for boasting in regard to himself alone, and not in regard to another. ⁵ For each one shall bear his own load."

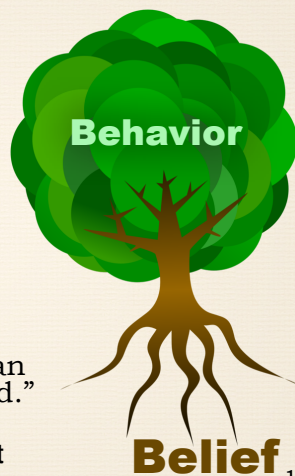
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4. Sins have **roots** that must be addressed.

Outward conduct
often reflects
Inner rebellion

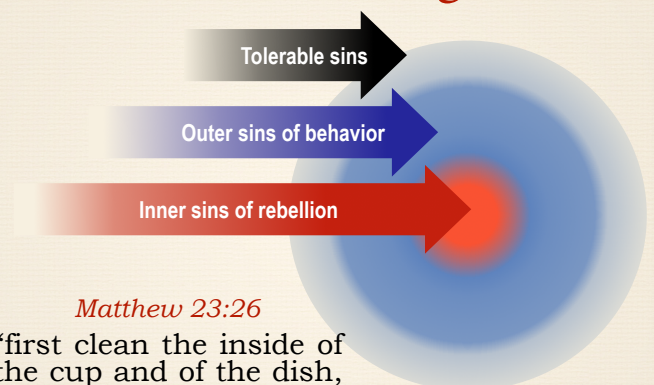
"In the end it is usually an issue between us and God."

faith issues
- fear, anger, disappointment



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Three levels of transgression



Matthew 23:26

"first clean the inside of the cup and of the dish, so that the outside of it may become clean also."

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People with Godly character.

1. They understand and respect the **continuum** of what is celebrated and condemned.
2. They expect **personal sacrifice** in bearing one another's burdens.
3. They learn from Paul's **example**.
 - Confrontation is for the **wise and mature**.
 - **Restoration** is the goal.
 - **Humility, patience, and gentleness** are needed.
4. They address the **roots** of sin as well as the fruits of sin.