Title: Bearing Burdens

Text: Galatians 6:1-10

Introduction: Turn with me in your Bible to Galatians 6:1-10. This morning I would like to focus our attention on the topic of bearing burdens.

This past week has reminded all of us that we are all one poor decision away from falling into temptation, one wrong action from destroying our own reputations, and one failure away from damaging the reputation of the church. I frequently remind my kids about the following circles of influence their decisions will have whenever they leave the house and enter into the community to hang out, work, or engage in ministry: GOD – FAMILY – PBC.

So what should we do when someone around us forgets about the motto: “GOD-FAMILY-PBC”? What if that person is a church leader… one of our pastors?

* We must face the truth. (accept the new reality in front of us…)
* We must seek the truth. (attempt to understand the how, why, when, where, and how long of sinful actions)
* We must follow the truth. (look to Scripture as our guide for how to respond)
	+ Wednesday evening, I walked our church family through the story of sin in I Corinthians 5, the response of the church to a repentant sinner in 2 Corinthians 2, and the fruit to look for in one who is genuinely repentant from 2 Corinthians 7.
	+ This morning, during our Equip service, I invited Kurt Stephens to publically confess his sin before the members of PBC and seek your forgiveness.

So this morning, in preparation for his arrival, I want to direct your attention to how you should respond to Kurt’s confession. Let me encourage you to open your bible to Galatians 6. Let’s read verses 1-10…

Two main thoughts jump out from this passage:

I. There are Burdens YOU CAN SHARE. (1-2)

II. There are Burdens YOU MUST BEAR. (3-10)

Read Galatians 6:1-5

**I. There are Burdens YOU CAN SHARE. (1-2) …literally, the burdens of each other, keep bearing.**

1. **You are qualified to help.** (1a)
	* **Based on your position in Christ –** brothers
		1. Verse one begins with a generic call to the church “brothers” referring to both men and women… and the chapter ends in verse 18 with the same reference to “brothers.”
* **We are UNITED by the Gospel of God. (1:2)**
* **We are EMPOWERED by the Gospel of God. (1:11)**
* **We are ENCOURAGED by the Gospel of God. (3:15)**
* **We are INSPIRED by the Gospel of God. (4:12)**
* **We are INSTRUCTED by the Gospel of God. (4:28, 31; 5:13; 6:1)**
	+ [Brothers…] Practice biblical separation (4:28-30; 5:7-12)
	+ [Brothers…] Enjoy Christ-centered freedom (4:31-5:1-6)
	+ [Brothers…] Model servant-leadership (5:13-15) by walking in the Spirit (5:16-26)
	+ [Brothers…] Bear the burdens of others (6:1-10)
	+ **Based on your connection with others –**“If **anyone** (anthropos – generic word for mankind) is caught in **any** transgression.” (I Corinthians 10:13 – “…such as is common to man…”)
		1. CAUGHT (ESV) OVERTAKEN (KJV) (passive; sudden; possibly the result of self-effort) in ANY TRANSGRESSION (ESV) FAULT (KJV) (deviation from the correct path)
1. **CAUGHT:** You have exhausted your effort to find victory
2. **TRANSGRESSION:** Deviation from the correct path.
	1. **You acknowledge that you have a problem (any TRANSGRESSION).** You choose to leave the right path.

 (By the way, the only source of lasting victory is found by walking in the Spirit [5:22-23 and 25]. That means you will not be able to achieve long term success apart from the power of the Spirit of God working in and through you.)

 *A. You are qualified to help. (1a)*

1. You are commissioned to help. (1b-2)
	* Two imperatives: Restore & Bear

**RESTORE: (katartizo: [Active; Imperative] prepare, complete; mend or fix)**This word is used especially as a surgical term of setting a bone or joint. View the one who has been overtaken for what he is, a broken limb in the body of Christ. It is to the best interest of everyone in the “body” that he be restored. How do we go about the restoration process? I’m glad you asked ☺.

1. Restore the one overtaken in a fault through the power of the spirit “in a spirit of gentleness (ESV) meekness (KJV)” (a fruit of the spirit) **GENTLY**

**IN MY OPINION, THIS IS AN AREA THAT WE FAIL TOO FREQUENTLY IN CHURCH.** We want results and we want them NOW! What about Psalm 1:3 – “bears fruit in its season…”

1. Restore him **SOBERLY** “keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted.”

**Keep watch on yourself (ESV) or Considering thyself (KJV) –** (Present active participle) the verb indicates being sharply attentive, very diligent. The present indicates continually doing so…

**1 Corinthians 10:12**
12 Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.

Literally pray: Dear God, help me not fall prey to the same process that led my brother to deviate…

We all have “TRANSGRESSIONS OR FAULTS” that we struggle with… tendencies to stop walking in the Spirit and start walking in the flesh. I know this is true because verse one begins with a generic call to the church “brethren” referring to both men and women… if a man (anthropos), a generic reference to anyone, be overtaken in ANY fault. But by the grace of God so go I!!!

What is your tailor made struggle? Is it gossip, pride, laziness, fear of man, rebellion against authority, immorality, etc. No doubt it falls into the category of the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, or the pride of life (I John 2:15-16 … “Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world…”)

Have you gotten off the path in one of these areas and now find yourself overtaken?

Read John 8:1-11

**BEAR THE BURDEN OF ANOTHER: (bastazete: Present; Active; Imperative) pick up, take up; carry away; remove**

* The Greek word for burden in verse 2 is *baros* and refers to something heavy
* The “something heavy” refers to one caught in any transgression
1. Bear burdens **COMPLETELY**. (from the lexical definition of the word… to pick up, take away, carry away, remove)
2. Bear burdens **JOYFULLY** “so fulfill the law of Christ”

“fulfill” – a compound word connecting the preposition “up” with the verb “to fill”, giving the idea of a COMPLETELY ACCOMPLISHING WHAT CHRIST DESIRES FROM YOU AND I. (5:14) The focus in on your obedience to seek restoration, not the immediate result of the one being restored!

**James 2:8**
8If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing well.

**Illustration:** The king in Matthew 18:21-35 who forgave the man who owed him a lifetime’s worth of debt (10,000 talents: 1 talent is worth 20 years wages. 40K a year times 20 equals $800,000… times 10,000 = 8 Trillion Dollars [Current US National Debt is around 20 Trillion])… unfortunately, in the end the one who was forgiven so much was unwilling to forgive another a much smaller amount (100 denarii = around $10,000)

**LET’S OPEN UP OUR EYES AND SEE THE NEEDS ALL AROUND US! AND LET’S BE PREPARED TO ACTIVELY MEET THOSE NEEDS FOR THE GLORY OF GOD!**

**Application:**

* **Does someone who is overtaken in a fault come to your mind?**
	+ Has he come to the end of himself and his vain attempts to bear his burden alone?
* **Stop making excuses for not actively seeking their restoration!**
	+ ARE YOU SAVED? ARE YOU STRIVING TO WALK IN THE SPIRIT? Then get down in the trenches and offer to help someone in need.
	+ Remember:
		- Seek his restoration GENTLY AND SOBERLY.
		- Bear his burden JOYFULLY.

*I. There are burdens YOU CAN SHARE. (1-2)*

**II. There are burdens YOU MUST BEAR. (3-5)**

 A. Examine your motives. (3-4a)

“For if anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing…”

**Illustration:** Being overly confident when challenged to a wrestling match with Dwight Smith.

“Deceives himself” – means to lead one’s mind astray… relating to subjective fantasies that are self-deceptive.

* The Elijah syndrome in I KINGS 19 “I only I am left…” No, there are 7,000 others…

**1 Corinthians 10:13 (ESV)**
13No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

 1. Step back and take an objective look at yourself (4a)

“Test” (ESV) “Prove” (KJV) his own work – to examine or approve after testing or examination. The word was used for the testing of metals to see whether they were pure.

**Romans 12:3 (ESV)**
3For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.

**1 Corinthians 8:2 (ESV)**
2If anyone imagines that he knows something, he does not yet know as he ought to know.

**2 Corinthians 3:5 (ESV)**
5Not that we are sufficient in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us, but our sufficiency is from God,

 2. “his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor” – means personal exultation in the strength provided by Christ Jesus… not by your friends, your family, or your colleagues bearing the burden God intended you to bear.

* not sinful pride but Joy in serving Jesus! (4b)

**2 Corinthians 12:1-7**

12 I must go on boasting. Though there is nothing to be gained by it, I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. 2I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows. 3And I know that this man was caught up into paradise—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows— 4and he heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter. 5On behalf of this man I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses— 6though if I should wish to boast, I would not be a fool, for I would be speaking the truth; but I refrain from it, so that no one may think more of me than he sees in me or hears from me. 7So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations,[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Cor+12&version=ESV#fen-ESV-29013a)] a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. 8Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. 9**But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.**

**2 Corinthians 10:12-13 (ESV)**
12Not that we dare to classify or compare ourselves with some of those who are commending themselves. But when they measure themselves by one another and compare themselves with one another, they are without understanding.

13But we will not boast beyond limits, but will boast only with regard to the area of influence God assigned to us, to reach even to you.

**B. Fulfill your own responsibilities. (5-10)**

**Bear** (bastasei: **future**; active; indicative) to pick up, take up; carry away, remove (SAME WORD AS USED IN VERSE 2 but in verse 5 it is in the future tense)

**Burden or LOAD** (ESV) is a different Greek word than the one found in verse 2. Here burden (phortion) denotes a load which one is expected to bear. It was used of a military term for a man’s pack or a soldier’s kit.

**Generally:**

1. **A reference to the accountability you will one day give at the Judgment Seat of Christ regarding…**
	* + 1. **Your deeds or responses to others** (2 Cor 5:10; I Cor 3:12-15). [HOW WE RESPONDED TO THE RESPONSIBILITIES ENTRUSTED TO US!]
				1. **How much you apply yourself at work, home, or school!**
			2. **Your administration of the gift or ministry assignment you received from God.** (Eph. 4:11-12 - 11And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians+4%3A11-12&version=ESV#fen-ESV-29267a)] and teachers,[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians+4%3A11-12&version=ESV#fen-ESV-29267b)] 12to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,

**Specifically:**

1. **How you help your teachers/pastors (6:6-9)**
	1. Sow in the Spirit not in the flesh!!!
	2. Make church a priority
2. **How you help members in your community (6:10a)**
3. **How you help members in your church (6:10b)**

LET’S FALL TO OUR KNEES AND BEG GOD FOR THE GRACE TO SUSTAIN US.

Illustration: There is nothing like experiencing the joy of seeing a brother or sister in Christ restored to the body! The lady who spoke with Dan Valentine and I…

**Conclusion:**

I. There are burdens WE CAN SHARE. (1-2)

 A. Anyone who is spiritual is to reach out to anyone caught in any transgression. (1a)

 B. The ultimate goal is restoration. (1b-2)

 **LET’S OPEN UP OUR EYES AND SEE THE NEEDS ALL AROUND US!**

II. There are burdens WE MUST BEAR (3-5)

 A. We should test our own motivation to see if it is pure. (3-4a)

 B. We should not lose sight of our own burden. (5)

**LET’S FALL TO OUR KNEES AND BEG GOD FOR THE GRACE TO SUSTAIN US.**

**Apply the Text:**

* **Is there a burden you need to share?**
	+ Has the Holy Spirit brought someone to your mind?
	+ Stop making excuses for not actively seeking his restoration!
	+ Reach out to him today.
* **Is there a burden you need to bear?**
	+ Are you living in light of the Judgment Seat of Christ?
	+ Which of the three categories of people need more of your attention: (1) church leaders; (2) community members; (3) church family.