

BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH OF ERIE

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“Going The Second Mile - As WE Help Carry Each Other’s Burdens.”

GALATIANS 6:1-5

Everybody has burdens. Not everyone has wealth, but everyone has burdens. Not everyone has health, but everyone has burdens. Not everyone has talent, but everyone has burdens. At this moment you may be carrying family burdens, financial burdens, or physical burdens. You may be struggling under a vocational burden or an emotional burden. Emotional, physical, and relational burdens are a part of life.

Before we tackle our text, let’s back up to **Galatians 5** and set the context. **Verse 25** provides the key to the Christian life. **Verse 26** indicates that if we want the Body of BBC to be strengthened, we must avoid belittling others while we build ourselves up. **Self-centeredness** is the deadly enemy of all the “**one another**” statements in Scripture since our conduct toward others is largely determined by our opinion of ourselves. There are four truths for us to learn here in **Galatians 6:1-5** and let us jump right into them. God has given us four **relational responsibilities** in this passage. Our first task is found in **verse 1**...

I. RESTORE THE BROKEN V-1

Paul refers to his readers as “**brothers**,” a term that indicates we’re part of the same family. By using the word “**if**” he’s helping us think through something hypothetical that has far-too-often become a real story.

-**The situation: a broken believer.** The word “**overtaken/caught**” was used to describe a bird or an animal that had become entangled in a trap.

-**Who is to help: a spiritual believer?** The person best equipped to help a fallen follower is one who is “**spiritual – walking and living in the Spirit.**”

-**What to do: restoration.** The one who has fallen is in need of restoration.

-**How to do it: with gentleness and humility.**

So, we are first told to **RESTORE THE BROKEN** in V-1. Secondly, we are to...

II. RELIEVE THE BURDENED V-2

The assumption behind this task is that we all have burdens and God does not want us to carry them alone. The word “bear or carry” means to remove or lift an overwhelming load. A burden is like a huge boulder weighing someone down as they stagger along the highway of life. When we help the hurting, we are “fulfilling the law of Christ,” **which is summed up in John 13:34.**

We are to: **Restore the Broken, Relieve the Burdened** and Thirdly, we are to ...

III. REPENT OF BRAGGING Vs. 3-4

When you see your brother or sister suffering, don’t be too arrogant to get involved. It’s so easy for us to look down our noses and say, “They deserve it.” “She’s so weak.” “He just can’t handle the pressure.” “I saw it coming.” **Verse 4** tells us to test our own actions, by examining our behavior.

Lastly, we are to...

IV. RESPECT YOUR BOUNDARIES V-5

While **verse 2** refers to an overwhelming burden that we cannot carry by ourselves, the word “**load**” in **verse 5** describes personal responsibilities. The Greek word for **burden** in **verse 2** is “**baros**”, which means a crushing weight, like being trapped under the rubble of a building after an earthquake. The Greek word in **verse 5** is “**phortion**”, refers to anything that is carried, and has no connotation of difficulty. It was often used of the general obligations of life that a person is responsible to **bear on his own.**

For a Christian, **load** can refer to “his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad,” for which he will give account “before the judgment seat of Christ” (**2 Cor. 5:10; 1 Cor. 3:12-15**). His **load** can also refer to fulfilling his personal calling and ministry for the Lord. Jesus assures His followers that the “load” [**phortion**] of service He gives them “is light” (**Matt. 11:30**). In either case, every believer is accountable to **bear his own load**, even the light one Christ gives him, and to answer for his faithfulness in so doing when he faces Him.

We’re to bear that which is too heavy for another human to handle alone but we cannot carry someone else’s responsibility. We should help each other bear the big burdens of life, but there are personal responsibilities that each person must bear for himself.

Here’s the question for us today. Will we partner with Jesus to **restore the broken, relieve the burdened, repent of our bragging and have a healthy respect for boundaries?** We don’t have to carry the world on our back because Jesus has the world in his hands.

May we here at BBC of Erie be committed to go The Second Mile as we Help Carry Each Other’s Burdens.