

Dealing With Sin/ Bearing One Another's Burden (Galatians 6:1-2)

I. We who walk by the Holy Spirit must help our brothers and sisters who are caught in sin.

- A. A Brother/Sister in Christ who has become trapped in some particular sin is to be guided back to the way of life by which he/she is has been called, equipped, empowered and commanded by God to walk in.
- B. This is to be done with appropriate action according to the need of the moment as one is walking by the power of the Holy Spirit.
- C. This is to be done making sure one is aware of how easy it could be for him/her to be caught in sin as he/she addresses the one in sin.

II. We who walk by the Holy Spirit must bear one another's burdens.

- A. To bear one another's burden means to assist a person in handling appropriately the spiritual, and/ or physical consequences of life that result from the sin choices, tragedies or trials so that the person may function according to his roles and responsibilities as commanded by God appropriately.
- B. The goal in bearing one another's burden is not to take over the person's roles and responsibilities but to help the person deal with the issues that have become an excess to their roles and responsibilities as a result of the sin choices, tragedies, or trials while helping them to walk as commanded by God appropriately in their roles and responsibilities within the process.
- C. The fulfillment of the law of Christ which is to love is done when we bear one another's burdens.

III. Key Tools for Dealing with Sin and Bearing Burdens

- A. Teach the person to identify what they cannot and can control within the context of life and within his situation.
- B. Teach the person to discern how their choices are driven by the motives and desires of the heart and the implications of this within his situation.
- C. Help the person give thanks for his condition and circumstances knowing God will use it to bring about God's glory and the person's good as the person works through his condition and circumstances according to God's commands (Romans 8:28, 1Thessalonians 5:18).

- D. Help the person accept the fact that he is passing through this world not settling down in this world and the implications of this within his situation (Philippians 3:20-21, 1 Peter 2:11).
- E. Help the person enjoy every pleasure that God allows, endure every pain that God allows, while living from Him, through Him, and to Him in his condition and circumstances focusing on God's commitment to him and his commitment to obey God (Ecclesiastes 5:18-20, 12:13-14, 1 Corinthians 13:7, Hebrews 13:5-6).
- F. Assist the person in obtaining and using the tangible and non-tangible resources he needs to deal with consequences of sin, tragedies, trials and to function as God has commanded in his role and responsibilities. (i.e. food, clothing, cash, counseling, connections etc.)
- G. Help the person identify where he has been thinking, speaking, or acting in sin towards God in particular situations.
- H. Help the person identify where he has been thinking, speaking, or acting in sin towards others in particular situations.
- I. Help the person identify where he has been thinking, speaking, or acting in sin in response to unfavorable or difficult circumstances.
- J. Help the person identify what he wants or desires that he cannot control getting from God, others, or circumstances that has become the selfish ambitions of his life leading to complications in his life.
- K. As these things are revealed, allow the person time to grieve over the distance and damage his sin has caused between him, God and others.
- L. Help the person confess and repent of lusting after those wants or desires he cannot control getting from God, others, or circumstances.
- M. Help the person confess and repent of ungodly thoughts, words, or actions towards God, others, and circumstances.
- N. Help the person identify the godly thoughts, words, actions, or desires that God is seeking to lead him to develop in replacement of the ungodly ones as he walks by the power of the Holy Spirit; Help the person receive and cultivate hope that comes from trusting God.
- O. Help the person lay out a daily or weekly schedule of specific things he is to think, desire, communicate, behave, relate, and serve and discipline himself to practice each task faithfully and consistently apart from his feelings.