

How to Restore Others After Moral Failure

Galatians 6:1-2

Series: Love One Another – Part 8

Introduction – Two Extremes!

- Exhibit A – Passive Indifference
- Exhibit B – Painful Insensitivity

Review – The Teaching Of Jesus (Matthew 18:15-17)

◆ **Step 1 = Private Conference**

“If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over.

Vs 15

◆ **Step 2 = Small Group Confrontation**

But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that ‘every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses’.

Vs 16

◆ **Step 3 = Public Disclosure**

If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; ... vs 17a

◆ **Step 4 = Public Exclusion**

... and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector.

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Vs 17b

**THE GOOD NEWS –
GOD’S WAY WORKS!**

The great majority of church

- ◆ **The Question:**
How Do We Restore Those Who Have Fallen?

- ◆ **The Answer:**
Galatians 6:1-2

¹ Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted. ² Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

Galatians 6:1-2 (NIV)

What Does Galatians 6:1-2 Mean?

- ◆ **The Situation** A fellow Christian is “caught” (overcome) by a sin.

- ◆ **The Command** The spiritually mature are to restore this believer.

- ◆ **The Method** Gentleness is to characterize our attitude and the process.

- ◆ **The Warning** Restoration is a dangerous process even for the mature.

- ◆ **The Summary** “Bearing one another’s burdens” involves the arduous task of confrontation, forgiveness, comfort, and loving fallen believers back to a position of fellowship and former fruitfulness. (see 2 Corinthians 2:5-11 & Luke 15:11-32)

Conclusion – We Serve The God Of “Second Chances”

1. We will all “fall” to some degree at some time.
2. We must resist our fears and insecurities that lead to **passive indifference**.
3. We must resist our desire for justice and self-righteous tendencies that lead to **painful insensitivity**.
4. We must **restore**, not “shoot our wounded.”

5. HOW CAN WE FAIL TO DO FOR ANOTHER WHAT CHRIST HAS DONE FOR US?

“Action Steps”

For personal, family, growth groups, and ministry team use.

1. What information in this message was new to you?
2. Where have you seen church discipline done well with the right attitude and motive?
3. Is there a “fallen Christian” in your relational network? Might God be asking you to begin or help the restoring process?
4. Are you willing to “enter the fray” to attempt to restore someone Christ died to save?