

IMPACT

I **M**ust **P**ersonally **A**cknowledge **C**hrist **T**oday
Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own under-
standing; *in all your ways acknowledge Him* and He shall direct your path.
Proverbs 3:5-6

Passage: Galatians 6:1-3 “Brethren, *if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.* Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. For if anyone thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself.”

Quote: “The greatest of faults, I should say, is to be conscious of none in yourself.” Carlyle

The goal of restoration is a right standing with God and others. One handicap to helping someone who has sinned is pride. Pride can wrongfully judge others. Pride is unwilling to risk getting involved. Pride can fear retaliation by the one you are trying to help. Pride can make one think that he or she has “all of the answers.”

The word “overtaken” carries the idea of being caught and can have one of two meanings. The individual is “caught in the act” or “ensnared by the act.” Hebrews 12:1 tells us to “lay aside...the sin which so easily ensnares us.” Paul talks of the warfare with his flesh that tempts him to betray what he knows to be right. So intense is his struggle that he exclaims. “Oh wretched man that I am!” He then asks, “Who shall deliver me from this body of death?” His answer? “Jesus Christ our Lord!” Our flesh can naturally desire things that bring pleasure to the body, but that in some form or fashion violate Scripture. We are “drawn away” by our own lusts like a fish to bait, and “enticed” like an animal to a hunter’s call.¹ And while God has promised the way of escape for every temptation, there are times when we all utterly fail to escape as we should and could if we relied upon Him.²

“You who are spiritual” refers to those who are living their lives in accordance with the Holy Spirit’s leading as He illuminates the written Word, and enables them to apply it consistently in practical righteousness—doing right by others for God’s glory and their good.

“Restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness” tells us what to do and the attitude with which we are to do it. Restore means “to mend’ or ‘repair’ and was used of setting a broken bone or repairing a dislocated

limb.”³ We are to do this with humility and gentleness. Doctors who convey a serious prognosis and a grueling remedy with compassion and optimism can make the truth bearable and the road to recovery seem doable. Christians seeking to restore “the fallen” should certainly have a similar “bedside manner.”

What are some things that we can do to **RESTORE** someone who has sinned?

Remember that we all have “feet of clay.” Apart from God’s grace, we are all capable of defeat by our flesh and the temptations that entice us. Our text warns us to “*consider ourselves lest we also be tempted.*” (I Cor.10:12)

Restore the Fallen

Examine your attitude and your motive before you seek to be of help to someone else. (Matt.7:1-5)

Starve a prideful, judgmental, hypocritical spirit by *refusing to sow pain and discord.* “Sanctified gossip” is a sinful contradiction! (Prov.11:13; 26:22; Isaiah 43:25; James 4:11-12)

Tell the offender that our long-suffering God has promised to forgive us of our sins and to cleanse us of all unrighteousness. (I John 1:9; Isa. 1:18; Psa.103:8-14)

Offer encouragement along the way. *Restoration is a process, not a quick fix.* (Prov.15:23; 25:11; Isa.50:4)

Refuse to make light of sin, but *rebuke it with a humble, “mild spirit “ and self-control.* (II Tim.2:24-26)

Entreat God to bestow His *grace* upon the offender and anyone he/she has offended. (Eph.3:14-21)

James tells the “Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.”⁴ In light of Christ’s soon return, Peter admonishes Christians, “Above all things have fervent love for one another, for ‘love will cover a multitude of sins.’” What a ministry it is for Christians to help someone recognize their sin, repent of it, rely upon God for victory over it and receive restored fellowship!⁶

1 James 2:12-15; MS Bible 2 I Cor. 10:13; II Peter 2:9 3 MS Bible 4 James 5:19-20 5 I Peter 4:7-8 6 Psa.32