

March 25, 2012

The Bridge Bible Fellowship

Pastor Paul S. Brown

Galatians 6:1

“Do Good To All Men, Part Three”

- I. The Gospel of Grace Alone Through Faith Alone in the Finished Work of Christ Alone Defended (1:1-2:21)
- II. The Gospel of Grace Alone Through Faith Alone in the Finished Work of Christ Alone Explained (3:1-4:31)
- III. The Gospel of Grace Alone Through Faith Alone in the Finished Work of Christ Alone Applied (5:1-6:18)
 - A. Position of Liberty: Stand Fast (5:1-12)
 - B. Practice of Liberty: Love One Another (5:13-15)
 - C. Power for Liberty: Walk in the Spirit (5:16-26)
 - D. Performance in Liberty: Do Good to all Men (6:1-16)
 1. Bearing the Burden of Grace vs. Law (6:1-5)
 - a. Problem #1 – v. 1-2
 - 1) Problem – “caught in any trespass”
 - 2) Process – “restore such a one”
 - 3) Personnel – “brethren...you who are spiritual”
 - 4) Pattern – “spirit of gentleness...looking to yourself (gently; humbly; sympathetically)
 - 5) **Principle – “Bear one another’s burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ.”**

Bear = *bastazo* = occurs 27 times in the NT for “to lift up” (Jn. 10:31), “to bear away” (Jn. 20:15), “to carry,” (Lk. 7:14; 22:10) and “to pilfer” (Jn. 12:6). - cf. Gal. 5:10; Rom. 15:1ff

...one another’s

...burdens = *báros*. Originally “weight,” then figuratively used of “suffering”

- A distinctive NT use is for the burden of the **law** from which Christians are freed (Acts 15:28).
- Cf. Gal. 5:13-14 – through love SERVE one another!

...and thereby fulfill the Law of Christ = the Greek word for “fulfill” conveys the idea of what is absolutely perfect or of filling up what is lacking (Gal. 5:14; Jn. 13:34; Rom. 13:8, 10; 1 Cor. 16:17)

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean to “preach the Gospel to yourself every day”? How are you doing this? How might you do a better job of this in the days to come?
2. What is “community”? Why is community so important in the Christian life? What do we have to overcome to develop a genuine sense of community in our churches? What are you doing to develop community in our church?
3. Read Gal. 6:1. What would it look like in practical terms to “restore” a fallen brother or sister? How much work might be involved in this? What might it cost you personally? How would a deep understanding of grace impact your willingness to pay that price?
4. What is a “burden”? What specific “burdens” might Paul be referring to in v. 2? How does Acts 15:28 use this word? What was the “burden” that the Legalists were trying to put on the Galatians?
5. What does it mean to “bear” (keep on bearing) the burden of another? According to Romans 15:1-2, what is our obligation? Now read Romans 14 to get the context of this command. What is our obligation toward a person with a weak conscience (living by Law instead of by grace)? Is it enough to simply not do the things that offend them or do we have another obligation?
6. What is the “law of Christ”? (see Jn. 13:34; Gal. 5:14; Rom. 13:8, 10; James 2:8)
7. Paul says to “keep on bearing one another’s burdens” in v. 2. What is implied by the present tense command to keep on bearing? What is implied by one another? How many of us in the future will need help with bearing a burden? How can others help if we don’t tell them about our burdens? Ask God to give you the courage to share with others in the group at least one of the burdens you are facing right now. If someone else shares a burden, ask God for the grace, wisdom, and strength to help that person bear their burden. Practice being a community of grace!!!
8. Who do you know that needs help overcoming Legalism or License? What will you prayerfully do to help them overcome this problem and learn to walk by the Spirit?