

**TITLE: A HELPFUL ATTITUDE**

**TEXT: GALATIANS 6:1-10**

**INTRO:** Over a five-year period of time in Detroit, I lived in 4 different places. Needless to say I got used to moving! I also got used to helping others move (I had several friends my age at church/work; we were always moving)! All you had to give was one notice at church that you were moving, & without fail, 10-20 guys would show up to help! This meant I was there to help them when they moved too. This is a very basic example of brethren helping one another...bearing one another's burdens.

**I. EXHORTATION TO HELP (v. 1-6):**

**A. Helping each other (v. 1-3)**

1. **(v. 1)** Specific command to help those who fall into apostasy (the works of the flesh – 5:19-21).
  - a. *If a man be overtaken in a fault* – this happens (even to Christians! – never assume a brother is impervious to this!)
  - b. *Ye which are spiritual* (one manifesting the fruits of the Spirit; more than someone who just shows up for worship)
  - c. *\*Restore* (repair; mend – Mt 4:21-“mending their nets”); convert (**Jam 5:19-20**) – assumes repentance of the sinner.
  - d. *Meekness* (gentle, mild, humble; strength under control) – You're not going to win a brother being holier-than-thou!
  - e. *Considering thyself...* Don't try to help someone so much that you endanger your own soul! “**Jesus, Others, You**” is true, but only to a certain degree. In a sense, you must take care of yourself first (like with the oxygen masks in an airplane). You can't help someone if *you're* lost (blind leading the blind –**Lk 6:39; Mt 15:14**).  
-Things we *shouldn't do* when a brother is overtaken in a sin:
    1. Ignore the problem (this is what usually happens – we don't want to interfere in their lives (**1 Cor 5**)).
    2. Be harsh. This might damage the possibility of the person returning (**2 Cor 7**).
    3. Ignore the person after he has been restored.
2. **(v. 2)** General command to help one another
  - a. *Bear one another's burdens* (weights, loads; things we don't have to face alone in this life) - Help those who need help!
  - b. *Fulfill the law of Christ* – Some say we aren't under *any* law now. This verse clearly disproves this.  
**Jn 13:14,15,34** – Just like the OT, love fulfills the whole law (**Mt 22:35-40** –love God and love your neighbor).
3. **(v. 3)** *For* (tying back to v. 2) if someone thinks higher of himself than he is (arrogant, selfish), he deceives himself. Helping requires humility. Think of others higher than yourself, then you will *want* to help them.

**B. Helping yourself (v. 4-5)**

1. **(v. 4)** Although you help others & they help you, *you* must still test yourself (*you're* responsible; don't *rely* on others).
  - a. *Prove your own work* - work is the evidence of your faith. Are you faithful? Look at your life & see!
  - b. **2 Cor 13:5**-“*Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves.*” Each of us has this responsibility!
  - c. Then you can rejoice. The man who has an unrealistic image of himself (**v. 3**) will be disappointed. But when your work is proven, you can rejoice (in this life and in eternity).
2. **(v. 5)** Why this test? Because every man must bear his own burden (task; different word than in v. 2; “the obligations Christ lays upon his followers”-Thayer). Nobody can do this for us. This is your own responsibility-to look out for your own soul.

**C. Helping the helpers (v. 6)**

1. *Let him that is taught in the word, communicate* (share, distribute) *in all good things to him that teaches.*
2. If you are receiving spiritual instruction, you have the obligation to provide for the instructor's needs!
3. The laborer is worthy of his hire (**1 Tim 5:18**). Paul made this point in **1 Cor 9:11-13**.

**II. EXTENT OF HELPING (v. 7-10):**

- A. **(v. 7)** *Don't be deceived* – thinking you can fool God; *God is not mocked* (deceived). *You reap what you sow*. You may fool some people, but everyone will find out based on your fruit (what you reap).  
**Mt 7:16** – “*By their fruits...*” **Rom 2:6** -“*God will render to every man according to his deeds.*”
- B. **(v. 8)** *For he that soweth to the flesh...* Sowing (scattering) seed refers to a man's work (his life's efforts). If your efforts are in succeeding in *this life physically*, the results (harvest) will be decay. Focus on the spiritual; lay up treasure in heaven (**Mt 6:20**).
- C. **(v. 9)** And don't give up! *And let us not be weary* (weak, fail). Don't get discouraged! *We shall reap if we faint* (relax) *not*. Here is a promise from God. We can focus on the personal accomplishments & rewards of this life, or those of eternal life. \*But the promise is only for *spiritual* reaping, not physical!
- D. **(v. 10)** Conclusion: *Therefore* (Paul assumes we've chosen the right focus):
  1. *As we have opportunity* (while we can sow – while we can do good work) – Opportunity + Ability = Responsibility
  2. *Let us do good* (present tense - continue action – doing good) *unto all* (not saints-only doctrine)
  3. *Especially...the household of faith*. Just as a man has a higher obligation to take care of his own family first (**1 Tim 5:8**), so the church is obligated to take care of each other first, then non-Christians.

**CONCLUSION:** As well as we might know one another, we can't always know one another's needs/burdens without communicating to each other. **1)** We must *know* each other. **2)** We must *trust* each other. **3)** We must *love* each other enough to offer help. **4)** We must not let pride prevent a brother/sister from doing a good deed. Pride keeps us from asking for help. Pride keeps us from accepting help when it's offered. **Acts 20:35** – “*It is more blessed to give than receive.*” Don't take away a brother's opportunity to be blessed by helping you.