Love That Restores (From Condemnation to Compassion)

Love In Action

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November 15, 2026

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Sermon: Love In Action: Love That Restores (From Condemnation to Compassion)

Sermon Text

Galatians 6:1–5 (KJV)[1] Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. [2] Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ. [3] For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself. [4] But let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another. [5] For every man shall bear his own burden.

Introduction: What Happens When Someone Falls?

Throughout this series, *Love In Action*, we have been discovering that genuine Christian love is more than something we say, something we feel, or something we believe.

Genuine love is something we demonstrate! And so far, we've learned to demonstrate it through Service, Giving, and Forgiving.

So, what happens when somebody falls? How should we demonstrate love in these cases?

What happens when somebody who has been walking with God makes a terrible mistake?

What happens when somebody who has been encouraging everybody else suddenly needs encouragement themselves?

What happens when somebody who has been serving faithfully becomes entangled in something that damages their testimony?

And perhaps the most important question is this: How should Christians respond when another Christian falls?

Because the truth is: it is easy to love people when they are doing everything right. It is easy to embrace people when they are living up to our expectations. It is easy to celebrate people when they are succeeding.

But what happens when they fail?

Do we condemn them or show them compassion? Do we expose their failures or help facilitate their restoration? Do we distance ourselves from their struggles or draw close enough to help carry their burdens?

To understand Galatians 6, we must first understand the context of Galatians 5. Paul has been addressing the relationship between the law, grace, faith, and Christian freedom.

In Galatians 5:13, Paul says: For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.

Christian freedom is not permission to live selfishly. It is an opportunity to serve one another through love.

Then, in Galatians 5:14, he writes: For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

This connects the fulfillment of God's law with the demonstration of love.

He then contrasts the works of the flesh with the fruit of the Spirit.

Galatians 5:22–23 (KJV) 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

Simply put, a Spirit-filled life should produce Spirit-filled behavior. But here is the question: How do we demonstrate the fruit of the Spirit when someone else is struggling with the works of the flesh?

Galatians 6:1–2 (KJV) 1 Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. 2 Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.

We are shown three things: "Restore such an one;" "Bear ye one another's burdens;" "And so fulfil the law of Christ."

- First, love seeks to restore the person.
- Second, love seeks to relieve the person's burdens.
- And third, love seeks to revive that person’s spiritual life with renewed fellowship.

Genuine love does not condemn people for falling, abandon them in their struggles, or leave them in their brokenness. It seeks to restore, relieve, and revive them through the love of Jesus Christ.

Series and Sermon: Love In Action: Love That Restores (From Condemnation to Compassion)

(Love That Restores Them, Love That Relieves Them, Love That Revives Them)

I. Love That Restores Them (From Condemnation to Compassion)

Galatians 6:1 Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.

Genuine love does not condemn people because they have fallen; it seeks to restore them through the compassion and gentleness of Christ.

Our lesson text acknowledges that even believers can fall into sin. The phrase "overtaken in a fault" describes someone caught in wrongdoing.

But notice they are still called "brethren." Their failure does not mean we should treat them as enemies or abandon them. Instead, we are commanded to restore them.

The Greek word *katartizō*, translated "restore," means to mend, repair, or bring something back into proper condition. It is the same word used in Matthew 4:21 when James and John were mending their fishing nets.

Just as a torn net could be repaired rather than discarded, someone who has fallen can experience spiritual restoration.

But restoration must take place "in the spirit of meekness." In other words, we must correct with gentleness, not condemnation. We must confront wrongdoing without crushing the person who committed it.

How? "Considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted."

Why? Because none of us is beyond temptation or failure.

1 Corinthians 10:12 Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.

The same grace that sustains us is the grace that can restore somebody else.

Don't become so focused on somebody's failure that you forget God's power to restore them!

II. Love That Relieves Them (From Burdens to Blessings)

Galatians 6: [2] ***Bear ye one another's burdens***, and so fulfil the law of Christ.

Genuine love does not leave people struggling beneath the weight of their burdens; it becomes a blessing by helping them carry what they cannot carry alone.

We must move from restoring those who have fallen to relieving those who are burdened.

The Greek word translated "burdens" is *barē*, referring to heavy weights or loads.

Sometimes people carry burdens of guilt, grief, disappointment, or the consequences of their mistakes.

And often, we cannot see what someone is carrying simply by looking at them.

Sometimes the person who appears angry is actually hurting. Sometimes the person who appears distant is discouraged. And sometimes the person who looks strong is barely holding everything together.

That is why Paul commands us to "bear" one another's burdens.

We should not simply recognize their burdens, we should help carry them.

Romans 15:[1] We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves.

This requires more than sympathy. It requires action.

James 2: [15] If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, [16] And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things

which are needful to the body; what doth it profit? [17] Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.

Sometimes helping someone carry their burdens means providing encouragement, practical assistance, spiritual guidance, or simply walking alongside them through a difficult season.

We cannot solve every problem, but we can become instruments of God's grace in someone's life.

1 John 3:18 My little children let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.

God has not blessed us simply to enjoy His blessings. He has blessed us to become a blessing to somebody else!

Matthew 11: [28] Come unto me, all *ye* that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. [30] For my yoke *is* easy, and my burden is light.

III. Love That Revives Them (From Brokenness to Belonging)

Galatians 6: [2] Bear ye one another's burdens, ***and so fulfil the law of Christ***.

Genuine love fulfills the law of Christ by demonstrating the kind of compassion that helps broken people experience renewed hope, restored fellowship, and spiritual life.

When we bear one another's burdens, we "fulfil the law of Christ."

What is the law of Christ? Galatians 5:14 For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

And Jesus said: John 13:34 A new commandment I give unto you; That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.

The law of Christ calls us to love others as Jesus loved us. And Jesus did not abandon us when we were broken. He came to restore our relationship with God.

One of the most painful consequences of failure is the feeling of rejection and isolation.

But the church should be a place where repentant people can find forgiveness, accountability, encouragement, and a pathway toward restored fellowship.

Peter denied Jesus three times. But after His resurrection, Jesus met Peter, reaffirmed His love, and renewed Peter's calling.

In John 21, Jesus told Peter: "Feed my lambs." "Feed my sheep." "Feed my sheep."

Peter's failure was not the end of his story. Because on the Day of Pentecost, Peter boldly preached the Gospel, and about three thousand souls were added to the church.

Acts 2:41 (KJV) Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

Restoring love helps people move beyond their failures and rediscover what God can still do through their lives.

When Christ restores you, your failure does not have to be the final chapter of your story!

Conclusion: Love That Refuses to Give Up

Remember that every one of us has needed restoring love. We have all made mistakes. We have all fallen short. And we have all needed God's mercy and grace.

Romans 3:23 (KJV) For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

But thank God, He did not abandon us in our failures!

When we were fallen, He came to restore us.

When we were burdened, He came to relieve us.

And when we were spiritually dead in sin, He came to give us new life!

Ephesians 2:4–5 (KJV) ⁴ But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, ⁵ Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

And if God has demonstrated that kind of love toward us, shouldn't we demonstrate that same love toward others?

Because genuine love does not condemn people for falling, abandon them in their struggles, or reject them because of their brokenness.

When somebody falls, **God's Love Restores Them!**

When somebody is burdened, **God's Love Relieves Them!**

And when somebody is broken, **God's Love Revives Them!**

1 Peter 5:10 But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.

We serve a God who specializes in restoration!

Joel 2:25 (KJV)[25] And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpiller, and the palmerworm, my great army which I sent among you.

And that is **Love In Action!**

Midweek Study Lesson Plan (Sermon: Love That Restores (From Condemnation to Compassion))

Lesson Text

- **Primary Text:**
  - **Galatians 6:1–2**
- **Supporting Texts:**
  - **John 8:1–11; 2 Corinthians 2:6–8; John 21:15–19**

Sermon Outline

- **I. Love That Restores Them (From Condemnation to Compassion)**
- **II. Love That Relieves Them (From Burdens to Blessings)**
- **III. Love That Revives Them (From Brokenness to Belonging)**

Questions: (What was your main takeaway from this message?)

I. Getting To Know "Me"

1. Which of your family recipes deserves to be passed down?

2. What would you love to learn just for fun?

II. Into The Bible

1. Read Galatians 6:1. Why does Paul warn those restoring someone to consider themselves, "lest thou also be tempted"? What does this reveal about the spirit in which restoration should take place?

2. Read Galatians 6:3–5. What is Paul teaching about the importance of examining ourselves and bearing our own burdens, and how does this connect to his warning in verse 1?

III. Life Application

1. What can you say to someone who has made a major mistake to bring them back? What might be said that would instead push them away?

2. What are some practical things you can do to help carry the burden of someone who is in the process of being restored?