

“GOD'S LOVE RESTORES”

I. Galatians 6:1-5

A. The Love of God has been our theme for a few weeks now...

- 1) Abiding in His Love...
- 2) The impact of His Love...
- 3) Being like the Loving Neighbor (The Good Samaritan-even like Jesus.)
- 4) Today we look at Love and Restoration...

B. Galatians 6:1-5 revokes any notion of a "me & Jesus" Christianity...

- 1) When a brother or sister in Christ falls, is caught, entangled, or overcome by some transgression (sin, misconduct, wrong doing, or moral failure) we are called to restore that person with a spirit of gentleness and love...
- 2) We are not called to forsake them, abandon them, or shoot them--we are called to minister to them lovingly to effect restoration...
- 3) We're warned by Paul to do this carefully so as not be overcome by the same temptation which essentially means we are all vulnerable to stumbling & falling... "There but for the grace of God, go I." Also see: 1 Corinthians 10:12...
- 4) V2-3 *"Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself."* (The law of Christ, shucked down to the cob, is Love. And the greatest manifestation of His Love was upon the cross where He bore our sins and absorbed the wrath of God to make us His...)
- 5) We, therefore, have not earned or achieved our own righteous standing before God--Jesus Christ has earned that for us and imputed it to us through faith. That leaves no grounds for boasting, except in our Lord. Gal. 6:14-15; Jer. 9:23-24; Eph. 2:4-9.

C. Our God is a God of Love and restoration and He wants His children, His church, to be a people of Love & restoration. (Adrian Rogers' story-falling out of a tree...)

D. The heroes of the Bible were people like us and many of them fell hard and needed picked up, dusted off, healed and restored... Talk about clay feet!

- 1) Noah: Drunkenness and exposure...
- 2) Abraham: Deception- said his wife Sarah was his sister...
- 3) Jacob: A dishonest schemer...
- 4) Moses: Murder... Struck the rock twice...
- 5) Sampson: Delilah, Delilah, Delilah...
- 6) David: Adultery, conspiracy and murder...
- 7) Jonah: Rebellion towards God and disdain for the Ninevites...
- 8) Elijah: Fear of Jezebel, gloom and doom isolationism....
- 9) Peter: Pride, brash boasting, and denial of His Lord...
- 10) Thomas: Doubt and skepticism...
- 11) John Mark: Forsaking Paul and Barnabas on the mission field...

E. Some questions to throw out to you today...

- 1) First: Are you willing to be a vessel of God's Love and restoration?
- 2) Second: If entangled or wounded, are you willing to allow God to Love you and restore you through one or more of His children?
- 3) Is restoration not a matter of leading someone back to the Cross where you and me by grace, reside? *'Hey brother, let's limp back to the cross together...'*
- 4) Wouldn't it have been great if the Prodigal son's brother was with his father when he ran to greet his son when he saw him from a far off but returning home?!

F. Close with James 5:19-20, Proverbs 18:24 and Prayer...

Scriptures, Videos, & Bonus Stuff

Galatians 6:1-5 (ESV)

1 Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. 2 Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. 3 For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. 4 But let each one test his own work, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor. 5 For each will have to bear his own load.

Galatians 6:14-15 (ESV)

14 But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. **15** For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation.

1 Corinthians 10:12 (KJV 03)

12 Therefore let him that thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.

Jeremiah 9:23-24 (ESV)

23 Thus says the Lord: "Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, **24** but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the Lord who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the Lord."

Ephesians 2:4-9 (ESV)

4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, **5** even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— **6** and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, **7** so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. **8** For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, **9** not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

James 5:19-20 (NLT)

19 My dear brothers and sisters, if someone among you wanders away from the truth and is brought back, **20** you can be sure that whoever brings the sinner back will save that person from death and bring about the forgiveness of many sins.

Proverbs 18:24 (ESV)

24 A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

Some Excellent Video Clips

God's Restoration Began The Day Sin Broke The World - John Piper

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hWxq4Xdul4g>

Love Keeps Its Eyes Open - Mark Driscoll

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qUw8-VGq9wk>

The Gospel vs Moralism vs Irreligion by Tim Keller

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yQOkWULpW8g>

"Delilah" by Tim Hawkins

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wxy-SMSqPM>

Bonus Stuff

2 Corinthians 11:16-33 & 12:1-10 (ESV)

16 I repeat, let no one think me foolish. But even if you do, accept me as a fool, so that I too may boast a little. **17** What I am saying with this boastful confidence, I say not as the Lord would but as a fool. **18** Since many boast according to the flesh, I too will boast. **19** For you gladly bear with fools, being wise yourselves! **20** For you bear it if someone makes slaves of you, or devours you, or takes advantage of you, or puts on airs, or strikes you in the face. **21** To my shame, I must say, we were too weak for that! But whatever anyone else dares to boast of—I am speaking as a fool—I also dare to boast of that. **22** Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they offspring of Abraham? So am I. **23** Are they servants of Christ? I am a better one—I am talking like a madman—with far greater labors, far more imprisonments, with countless beatings, and often near death. **24** Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one. **25** Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I was adrift at sea; **26** on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from robbers, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers; **27** in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure. **28** And, apart from other things, there is the daily pressure on me of my anxiety for all the churches. **29** Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to fall, and I am not indignant? **30** If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness. **31** The God and Father of the Lord Jesus, he who is blessed

forever, knows that I am not lying. **32** At Damascus, the governor under King Aretas was guarding the city of Damascus in order to seize me, **33** but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall and escaped his hands. **Chapter 12: 1** I must go on boasting. Though there is nothing to be gained by it, I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. **2** I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows. **3** And I know that this man was caught up into paradise—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows— **4** and he heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter. **5** On behalf of this man I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses— **6** though if I should wish to boast, I would not be a fool, for I would be speaking the truth; but I refrain from it, so that no one may think more of me than he sees in me or hears from me. **7** So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. **8** Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. **9** But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. **10** For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

Charles Swindoll on Restoration

A few years ago, an angry man rushed through the Rijks Museum in Amsterdam until he reached Rembrandt's famous painting "Nightwatch." Then he took out a knife and slashed it repeatedly before he could be stopped. A short time later, a distraught, hostile man slipped into St. Peter's Cathedral in Rome with a hammer and began to smash Michelangelo's beautiful sculpture The Pieta. Two cherished works of art were severely damaged. But what did officials do? Throw them out and forget about them? Absolutely not! Using the best experts, who worked with the utmost care and precision, they made every effort to restore the treasures.

By His sovereign grace, God can bring good out of our failures, and even out of our sins. J. Stuart Holden tells of an old Scottish mansion close to where he had his little summer home. The walls of one room were filled with sketches made by distinguished artists. The practice began after a pitcher of soda water was accidentally spilled on a freshly decorated wall and left an unsightly stain. At the time, a noted artist, Lord Landseer, was a guest in the house. One day when the family went out to the moors, he stayed behind. With a few masterful strokes of a piece of charcoal, that ugly spot became the outline of a beautiful waterfall, bordered by trees and wildlife. He turned that disfigured wall into one of his most successful depictions of Highland life.

- Charles Swindoll, *The Quest For Character*, Multnomah, p. 49.

Three Kinds of Men

By C. S. Lewis

There are three kinds of people in the world.

The first class is of those who live simply for their own sake and pleasure, regarding Man and Nature as so much raw material to be cut up into whatever shape may serve them.

In the second class are those who acknowledge some other claim upon them—the will of God, the categorical imperative, or the good of society—and honestly try to pursue their own interests no further than this claim will allow. They try to surrender to the higher claim as much as it demands, like men paying a tax, but hope, like other taxpayers, that what is left over will be enough for them to live on. Their life is divided, like a soldier's or a schoolboy's life, into time “on parade” and “off parade,” “in school” and “out of school.”

But the third class is of those who can say like St Paul that for them “to live is Christ.” These people have got rid of the tiresome business of adjusting the rival claims of Self and God by the simple expedient of rejecting the claims of Self altogether. The old egoistic will has been turned round, reconditioned, and made into a new thing. The will of Christ no longer limits theirs; it is theirs. All their time, in belonging to Him, belongs also to them, for they are His.

And because there are three classes, any merely twofold division of the world into good and bad is disastrous. It overlooks the fact that the members of the second class (to which most of us belong) are always and necessarily unhappy. The tax which moral conscience levies on our desires does not in fact leave us enough to live on. As long as we are in this class we must either feel guilt because we have not paid the tax or penury because we have. The Christian doctrine that there is no “salvation” by works done to the moral law is a fact of daily experience. Back or on we must go. But there is no going on simply by our own efforts. If the new Self, the new Will, does not come at His own good pleasure to be born in us, we cannot produce Him synthetically.

The price of Christ is something, in a way, much easier than moral effort—it is to want Him. It is true that the wanting itself would be beyond our power but for one fact. The world is so built that, to help us desert our own satisfactions, they desert us. War and trouble and finally old age take from us one by one all those things that the natural Self hoped for at its setting out. Begging is our only wisdom, and want in the end makes it easier for us to be beggars. Even on those terms the Mercy will receive us.

- C.S. Lewis's short essay, "*Three Kinds of Men*," from his collection of essays, [Present Concerns](#) (pp. 9-10)