

Intro: Remember This? WWJD, "What Would Jesus Do?" WE know it as a popular craze a few years ago... you might be surprised to discover this is at least the SECOND time that phrase swept the country! In the late 1800 it first became a "thing" when Charles Sheldon originally wrote his book, 'In His Steps', popularized that concept!

But...no shocker here...that concept WASN'T new to any committed follower of Jesus. Everyone who thinks of themselves as a Christ follower should be regularly asking themselves that very question. And, that is exactly where Paul goes to finish his letter to the Galatian churches.

As is usually the case, Paul closes the letter to the Galatians with a series of short, direct, pointed, comments designed to help the church he is writing to live out what he has been writing in as practical a way as possible. Here in Gal, Paul closes his letter by telling the churches: Don't "*become conceited, provoking and envying each other.*"

INSTEAD Walk in the Spirit...and love the people around you the way Jesus would.

Turn w me to Galatians 6:1-18 Freedom to Love Like Jesus!

Specifically, 4 Kinds of People

1. Loving People Who Fall Into Sin.

Gal 6:1

Everyone gets tripped up at some point in their spiritual life. What Paul is doing is telling us how to deal with them. How we are to respond to and treat those that fall into sin. A couple of important points here.

- **Caught in a sin:** Lit = *to be surprised by, tripped up by, stumble into: When some ends up in ditch spiritually!*
- **Those spiritual:** Those who are "*walking in the Spirit*" the way he just described in Gal 5
Those who are spiritually on track, mature, and allowing the Spirit of God to control their attitudes and action
- **Restore:** This is a BEAUTIFUL word! In extra biblical literature we see it used in a couple of ways:
>*Fisherman:* To mend nets that have been torn, damaged, no longer function well: Know people like that!?
>*Medical:* To set a bone that has been broken...Again...do you know some people spiritual broken?
Notice here...not a lot of discussion about HOW got that way! (Other than Surprised)
Paul's focus is on...how and what are YOU going to do to help, heal, repair, make them whole?
- **Gently:** Lit = the opposite of arrogance and harshness! Treat them gently ...know...it COULD be you next!

Question: That's the way Jesus loved people!

Woman caught in adultery John 7:53-8:11

Woman anointing Jesus feet: Pharisee, IF He knew!

Q: What do YOU do when you see someone that has tripped and fallen? Do you

- **ENGAGE?** Make time in your life, room in your heart, and engage... Or
- **EXIT?** Say, I have too much to do, no time, no way to really help...Leave

What Paul tells us is this: Ask yourself...*How can I help? How can I heal? How can I repair...How can I restore*

What we CANNOT do is simply turn a blind eye...act like we don't see...look for fastest way out.

Think about it for a moment. WHO in your life are you called to come alongside and help? All Around You

2. Loving People Who Are Overwhelmed By The Burdens Of Life.

Gal 6:2-5

It is passages like this that make me laugh when I hear someone say, "Oh, I don't read the bible, so outdated!"

Let me ask you: Do YOU know some people that are overwhelmed, burdened down, breaking under the load of life?

This is so amazingly on time for where we live today. Every single day it seems like I talk to someone says: I'm DONE!

Almost everyone we know right now is struggling under a heavy load; It comes from all different kinds of places.

- >**Weakness:** Too heavy
- >**Inexperience:** Not enough background to make decision
- >**Ignorance:** Don't know what to do
- >**Circumstances:** Burdened by one after other problem
- >**Grief:** Heart is heavy with loss
- >**Trials:** God allows tough times to come Still hard!

Does ANY of that...or more realistically...Does ALL of that sound familiar? Even as I say it faces come to mind!

Look at what Paul tells us we are supposed to DO when we see someone struggling. BE LIKE JESUS!

- **Carry:** Come along side, life up the heavy weight and carry it FOR them!
This is EXACT same word that was used Jesus carrying His cross to Calvary! Be Simon of Cyrene!
- **Care:** Mt 9:36: Jesus saw: Harassed and Helpless: Sheep w/o shepherd!
- **Contribute:** Vs 9: Don't grow weary in doing the right thing! Due time...harvest will come!

Q: Where are YOU Engaged in ministry...in serving hurting people...IN restoring and healing!

Now, one of the things I tell young Pastors and Staff members is: NOT EVERY NEED IS A CALL TO MINISTRY FOR YOU
So, How do you KNOW?

- Walking in Spirit: Gal 5 Walking vs 16 and keeping in step with vs 25 Listening for His voice!
- Willing to be used: Willing to come along side...and Pick Up Not YOUR burden...but OTHERS!

NOT EVERY BURDEN OR AREA OF BROKENNESS IS A CALL TO MINISTRY: BUT SOME OF THEM CERTAINLY ARE!
THOSE OF US WHO ARE FOLLOWERS OF JESUS ARE CALLED TO WALK IN HIS STEPS...AND HE ENGAGED AND HEALED!

3. Those Who Are Busy Doing Good!

Gal 6:6-10

In these couple of verses Paul is telling us how to love people that are invested in ministry. While it includes Pastors, I don't believe he is limiting himself to Pastors. Notice what Paul says:

- Vs 6: One who receives instruction should share "all good things" with the one teaching him!"
Many people will use this verse to talk about paying their pastors and assoc pastors well, and it includes that. But, it is much broader than that in SCOPE...and much broader in APPLICATION:
 - Scope: Includes Pastors...But also Small Group leader, SS Teacher, Student leaders, Children's Teachers
There are all kind of different people that would fall into this category!
 - Application: Not just making sure a Pastor is appropriately compensated, but in a much broader sense I think Paul is saying something like this.
 - "All the GOOD things you want for YOURSELF...Those are what you should want for your Pastor, Teachers, Student leaders, Children's' teachers...

Applic: Let me tell you the application of this I have used for the Pastoral team members over the years
The ministry we are called to is incredibly difficult. The demands on their time, family, emotions hard
We need to make sure as a church that we are adequately providing for them..so they can FOCUS!
Last thing we want is to have our Pastoral team distracted by worrying about providing for family!
Our Pastors should not just have "enough" ...but the Good things YOU want...they deserve as well!

Applic: IN addition...when was the last time YOU took the opportunity to say to your Small Group leader,
THANK YOU! When did you send them a note...send them a gift card...for hours of preparation?
What about your student leaders, children's leaders...All of them are included in this category!

Q: Look at Jesus with His disciples: Mark 6:31: Come apart and rest...before you come apart!
Right now...I would say to you that Pastor Orin and I, along with all our staff and teachers NEED your prayers
Anyone seen the number of Pastors that in the last year have SERIOUSLY considered leaving ministry: 25-35%
It is happening all around us...The demands are so great...All so tired:

AS I WAS REVIEWING THIS SERMON AT THIS POINT: "Pastors are considering leaving in record numbers
5 Reasons to NOT leave: One: It's not any easier anywhere else!

I just this week am going on a Pastoral Retreat with 4 -5 my best friends...Tell you...They are EXHAUSTED!

4. Those Who Have Earned Respect and Honor Through Sacrifice For Christ.

Gal 6:17

Paul basically says to the Gal churches...This discussion is DONE! I don't want to hear ANYMORE what the Judiazers have to say about what it takes to follow Jesus! If you want to question whether or not I can say that...Look at my scars! (39 lashes, Stoning, Sea, Snakebite) I bear on my body the marks of serving Jesus...I have paid the price...I don't want to hear anymore from men who sit on the sidelines while I pay the price to build...want to corrupt!

That kind of honor and respect is EARNED at Great Cost! I have had 3 men in my life

Herb Fitzpatrick 50 years Bruce Baker Spiritual Director 77 Coach Bill Hull 60 yrs ministry

Those three men had almost 200 YEARS of Vocational Ministry service...Poured into me!

Q: Who in your life is in that category? A Spiritual Mentor that KNOWS Jesus...So much better than you...Pours In
When you are fortunate enough to have that...Cherish it...and Honor them...They have earned the scars they bear!
Not all scars are physical btw...many are on the heart...in the mind...live with you for a long time!

Applic: John the Baptist is the example in Jesus life: Forerunner: Willing gave up; Beheaded, Greatest man ever lived!

CONCL: The POINT of all that Paul has been writing to us is that we are FREE...NOT TO SERVE OURSELVES< PLEASE
But we are Free...To Love God...and to Love Others.....ARE YOU DOING THAT TODAY? I want to challenge you to wake up tomorrow and DO THIS: Pray: God show me today the ONE person I need to love way Jesus did. Just One! Repeat