

***We Are Family***  
**The Place Where Sin is Fought Better Together**

*Galatians 5:13-6:10*

*Grace Fellowship Church, Pastor Brad Bigney, March 12, 2017*

**Galatians 5:13-6:10**, shows us three characteristics of the family of God that money can't buy and the world can't deny when they see it in action.

**I. The Family of God Should be Characterized by Giving More than Taking**

The word 'love' is used four times in **Galatians 5** and it's the Greek word 'agape' that means a strong, non-sexual affection for someone that's characterized by a willingness to lay aside your own rights and privileges and to give to another expecting nothing in return.

**Galatians 5:13-14** "For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

The absence of agape love doesn't just leave you disinterested or neutral towards others. It makes you a consumer because instead of giving, you take and devour people.

**II. The Family of God Should be Controlled by the Spirit More than the Flesh**

The Spirit of the resurrected Christ lives in us and reorients us to think and live radically different than we would in our own strength.

**Galatians 5** makes it clear that it's your choice to either be led by the Spirit or to keep on feeding your own flesh by devouring those around you.

**v. 15** describes what it looks like when you live without agape love in your relationships. You bite, devour and consume each other. But **v. 26** tells us what's going inside that person doing those things to everyone around them instead of loving and giving.

**Galatians 5:26** "Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another."

They're conceited. Their mind is predominantly fed and led into only two categories of thinking about other people around them: thoughts of provocation or thoughts of envy.

If you're not filled with the Spirit of God and secure in your relationship with Christ, you can't even begin to love other people.

**III. The Family of God Who is Led by the Spirit of God Will Start to Care for the Sins and Sorrows of Other Believers Instead of Just Their Own**

Paul tells us how to help each other with two of the hardest things we face in life: when another believer is trapped under the load of sin and when another believer is overwhelmed with some kind of suffering or sorrow in this life.

**A. Let's Start with the Sin Problem in v. 1**

**Galatians 6:1** “Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.”

**1. When do you do this?**

When you see that they’ve been overtaken in a trespass. It’s not every time. Remember, **1 Peter 4:8** tells us love covers a multitude of sins.

**2. Who should do this?**

V.1 says, ‘you who are spiritual,’ which means anyone with the Holy Spirit, which is every believer.

**3. Who do you do this to?**

We’re talking about another brother or sister in the family of God that’s been trapped or caught in a sin that they might not even be able to see clearly about anymore and so you go.

**4. What are you doing?**

The word ‘restore’ in the Greek is to mend or set something right. It was used to talk about setting a dislocated bone back in place and it conveys the idea of staying there long enough for real healing to take place.

The sins that bind us and blind us most are the dislocated-bone-kind-of sins. It’s when a good thing has become dislocated, so that now it’s a God thing that blinds us and binds us and causes all kinds of pain to us and those around us, but we can’t even see it because we assume it’s good.

Believers in this kind of sin need help seeing what it is that’s causing so much pain. While your goal is never to wound and always to restore, the process of you helping them see this and put that joint back in place could cause even more pain!

**5. How should you do it?**

It should be done in a spirit of gentleness. That word ‘gentleness’ is taken from a Greek word that means humbly.

**B. Look at the Sorrows in v. 2**

**Galatians 6:2** “Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.”

To bear a burden for someone in the family of God you have to get close enough to other believers to know what their burdens are, you have to listen to them well enough to know what would be most helpful and you have to be willing to pay a price to let some of the load fall on you.