

Bearing with the Faults of Others

Scripture

“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. Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. For if anyone thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. But let each one examine his own work, and then he will have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another.” (Galatians 6:1-4 NKJV)

Commentary

It grieves me to write that I have not done well in this area. It comforts me to know that all is not lost.

It is not wrong to recognize faults and want to correct them. These Scriptures clearly tell the spiritual to restore such a one. However, it qualifies the conditions under which this must happen. The corrector must be spiritual, gentle, and contemplative.

He must be spiritual to have discernment; he must be gentle to gain an audience; and he must be contemplative to keep from falling into a reactionary sin.

The key of course is found in the latter part of our passage. It says, “For if anyone thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself.” We must keep our hearts from anger and prejudice by careful examination and confession of our own sins.

We must focus on our vertical relationship more than our horizontal relationships. If our primary concern is to honor God, then our other relationships become a proving ground to that end.

I think we fail in this area by being too dependent on the support of mankind. We want to see men do well, to have victory. When others do well, we believe we can do well. This can become our hope if we are not careful. When others fail, we lose hope because our hope is misplaced. Our hope must be in Christ and His righteousness. If we subconsciously believe that we have some merit before God because we act better than another man, then we have lost our way.

Remembering that our righteousness is by faith in Christ will help us to bear the burdens of others. It will also glorify the Father as we endure the wrongs we see committed, and in the end we will have rejoicing in ourselves and not another.

Prayer

Father, remind us today and everyday to focus on loving you. When we see others doing wrong, give us the discernment to know what to say and how to say it. Otherwise, give us the patience to endure it until we are able to be of service. May we never look at others without first looking carefully at our own lives! Amen.