

Study 16  
Galatians 6:1-5

1. Why is it that it is so common in church that we either provoke or envy others and why does this cause dissension?

Provoking and envying others in the church stem from human pride and insecurity, as we either see ourselves as superior (provoking) or inferior (envying) based on comparisons. This self-centered mindset disrupts unity, leading to dissension because it fosters competition, resentment, and division rather than love, humility, and mutual encouragement.

2. Why is conceit such an important human problem? Why do we have conceit? How does conceit or vain glory manifest itself in church fellowship?

**Why is conceit such an important human problem?**

Conceit, or vain glory, is a major issue because it stems from our deep desire for significance and self-worth, leading us to seek validation from others rather than from God. It distorts our relationships, making us self-absorbed and competitive instead of loving and humble.

**Why do we have conceit?**

We have conceit because, after the fall, humanity lost the true glory and honor that comes from being in a perfect relationship with God. As a result, we attempt to fill this void through self-exaltation, comparison, and seeking approval from others.

**How does conceit manifest itself in church fellowship?**

In church, conceit manifests as superiority (provoking others) or inferiority (envying others), leading to division, unhealthy competition, judgmental attitudes, and reluctance to bear each other's burdens. It shifts the focus from serving one another in love to striving for recognition, status, or moral superiority.

3. In Gal 6:1-2 what are the six principles of spiritual restoration?

**In Galatians 6:1-2, Paul outlines six principles of spiritual restoration:**

**i) Restore Those Caught in Sin** – Help believers who are trapped in sin, especially when they are unaware or unable to escape on their own.

**ii) Be Spiritual** – Those who restore others should be walking in the Spirit, not acting out of self-righteousness or pride.

**iii) Restore Gently** – Approach the fallen believer with a spirit of humility and kindness, not harshness or condemnation.

**iv) Be Humble and Watch Yourself** – Recognize your own weaknesses and avoid falling into temptation while helping others.

**v) Bear One Another's Burdens** – Support and share in the struggles of fellow believers, rather than judging or isolating them.

**vi) Fulfill the Law of Christ** – Loving and serving others in their struggles reflects Christ's command to love one another.

b) Reflection Question. Can you share amongst yourselves your experiences in helping others or when others are helping restore you? What were the negative things that they did and what were the positives?

4. a) What do you understand by the concept of spiritual restoration?

Spiritual restoration refers to the process of bringing back a believer who has fallen into sin, realigning them with God's will through gentle correction, support, and encouragement, so they do not drift away from Christ. It involves restoring them to spiritual health rather than condemning them.

b) Does everyone require you to restore them?

No, not everyone requires restoration, as some may be aware of their sin and seeking repentance on their own. Restoration is especially needed for those who are "caught" in sin—unable to recognize their wrongdoing or struggling to overcome it alone.

c) Why do we even have to bother with bearing another person's burden?

We bear one another's burdens because it fulfills the law of Christ, which calls us to love and serve each other. Helping fellow believers in their struggles fosters unity, prevents spiritual decline, and reflects Christ's own example of carrying our burdens.

d) Who are the persons best qualified for spiritual restoration?

Those best qualified for spiritual restoration are believers who are walking in the Spirit, mature in faith, and able to restore others with gentleness, humility, and love. They should have a genuine concern for the person's spiritual well-being rather than acting out of self-righteousness.

e) Does Paul indicate any criteria?

Yes, Paul indicates that those who restore others should be "spiritual" (Galatians 6:1), meaning they are led by the Holy Spirit, not acting in pride or judgment. They must also exercise gentleness and humility while being mindful of their own vulnerability to temptation.

5. Is Paul contradicting himself when he asks the Galatians to bear each other's burdens in v2 and then he writes that we are to bear our own burden in v5? How are we to bear our own burdens?

Paul is not contradicting himself in Galatians 6:2 and 6:5; rather, he is addressing two different aspects of responsibility.

### How do these verses relate?

1. **Galatians 6:2** – *"Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ."*

- This refers to heavy burdens (Greek: *barē*) that are too difficult for one person to carry alone, such as struggles with sin, suffering, or trials. Paul calls believers to support and help each other in times of need.

2. **Galatians 6:5** – *"For each will have to bear his own load."*

- Here, the word for "load" (Greek: *phortion*) refers to a personal responsibility, like a soldier carrying his assigned backpack. This means each believer is accountable for their own spiritual walk, decisions, and standing before God.

### How are we to bear our own burdens?

We bear our own burdens by taking personal responsibility for our faith, actions, and obedience to God. While others can help us in times of struggle, we must ultimately answer to God for our own choices and spiritual growth.

### Case History

Pastor Ryan had been serving the 4<sup>th</sup> Baptist church for the last 10 years and was married with three kids. Over the past year, he seemed distracted and had been noticed to be taking extra long lunches with one of the administrative staff of the church. A church member noticed the two of them having lunch together in an exclusive Japanese restaurant. One of the Elders confronted him about the inappropriate behavior as there were lots of rumors spreading about the two of them. He steadfastly denied any impropriety at all. The matter was dropped till his wife noticed a pair of ladies undergarments in his car which were not his and she reported this to her life group leader.

1. If you were a close friend of Pastor Ryan what would you do and why?
2. If it was confirmed that the pastor was having an affair with the administrative staff what do you think should be done? What would you counsel his wife to do?
3. What should the church do about his job? Consider that he has a family to support.

4. Suppose he is truly remorseful and repentant of his sexual indiscretion, should he be allowed to resume his duties in preaching, teaching, and ministry? When should this happen?

#### **Takeaway**

**Galatians 6:1-5 teaches believers to humbly restore others, bear one another's burdens, and avoid comparison, focusing instead on personal spiritual growth in Christ. True gospel relationships are marked by love, humility, and mutual support, reflecting God's grace.**