

Context

1] Letter written under pressure – young churches. plant of Paul's 1st missionary journey a few months ago – going off the rails – URGENT from 1:6 onwards!

2] Problem – circumcision group (2:12) – corrupted the grace of the Gospel (3:1ff) robbing Galatians of freedom in Christ (5:1ff)

MP *It is up to all who are godly in the church to gently reintegrate those who are repentant, having been taken in by legalistic, non Gospel teaching.*

KV *Brothers if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently (1)*

Paraphrase

Be gentle with those ensnared by the circumcision group but watch yourself (1) Recognise their situation and beware of personal pride. (2-5) Those helped, should in turn appreciate it. (6) Be warned – you'll get what you deserve, so, judge not lest you be judged. (7, 8) Do what is right whatever the reaction. (9) Do good to all especially to fellow Christians (10)

Restoring a brother (1-5)

1] the confrontation (1)

a) Brothers (cf 6:18)

All the church is responsible for a detached brother

b) Caught cf trapped

Any may be tempted and sin may overwhelm us

c) Sin

1) Contravenes the Law

2) Excludes from presence of God

d) You who are spiritual

1) Any in the church

2) Spiritual – exhibiting the fruit (cf fruitful)

Spiritual – live in step with the Spirit (5:25)

e) Gently restore

ie Gently – same root as gentleness (5:23) cf meekly (Matt 5:5) like Jesus (Phil 2:5-8)

cf mend nets (Matt 4:21)

1) Fruit of spirit

2) Restore – reintegrate

Cf the father in the prodigal son (Luke 15:

We act in restoration – meekly

** God welcomes us back gently* GRACE*

f) Watch out lest tempted

2] Carry each others burdens fulfil the Law of Christ

Nb burden = oppressive difficult to bear.

Cf Jesus and the cross (Jn 21:17)

Cf The entire Law - Love one another (5:14')

The law of Christ is to love one another as he has loved you' (cf Gal. 5:13)

3] something when nothing (3)

Cf Knowledge puffs up love builds up (1 Cor 8:1)

Cf deceive / bewitched (3:1)

4] Each look to his own (4, 5)

Cf plank in own eye

Any brother restored gently must share

Being restored (6)

1] He who is instructed in the Word

2] Share good things

Ie show appreciation

The attitude in restoring (7-10)

1] Realistic (7, 8)

God not mocked

Lit 'turn nose up at' – sneer

God is all knowing – He cannot be fooled

A man reaps what he sows

Sinful nature – destruction

Ie *Sinful nature (5:17, 19)*

Nb *Those who plough evil and those who sow trouble, reap it (Job 4:8)*

Spirit - eternal life

Nb *This is eternal life, that they know you (John 17:3)*

We have a choice which to sow into – sinful nature or Spirit.

**God is just sin reaps destruction **

2] Persevere in doing good (9)

Nb *ultimate reckoning*

Believe that good ultimately will be rewarded

3] So do good to all especially family of believers (10)

Conclusion

1) *Be ready to humbly restore a brother gently / meekly*

2) *Be prepared to receive correction in the Word and to share it with your benefactor*

3) *Live in the light of God's judgement wait for it doing good to all*