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Morning Service

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Teaching Elder

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## **Christian Relationships**

As members of the Body of Christ, we have bestowed upon us certain obligations that we must carry out in obedience in order that the Body be strengthened. We are very blessed to have Paul's letter to the Galatians instructing them on how to carry out the obligation of truly loving our brothers and sisters in Christ.

We superficially say how we love people, places, things, and etc, but superficial 'love' is not the type of love Paul was prescribing for the Galatians. This superficial love is rooted in fallible human emotion and is not the love that builds the Body of Christ. Paul was prescribing a 'tough' love for the Galatians and as its name implies, this kind of love is not easy and will only come through simple obedience of God's Law.

This Love keep us in control over our emotions, leads us to obey God, and will spurn us on to proactively give counsel to others in the Body whom we see as struggling with sin. This type of Love is not easy, is not always welcome, and is not reserved solely for pastors, elders, and deacons. This Love only comes from obedience and mortification of sin and if consistently applied, will produce amazing results in restoration and growth.

### **Notes**

Paul makes it very clear that we as fallen creatures are governed by our emotions and these emotions are always against the Spirit. These emotions evidence themselves very clearly by the types of fruit they bear. The fruits of natural man always produce confusion, dissension, and hostility. Any seeds sown in this soil will not prosper.

Likewise, the fruits of the Spirit are also just as obvious. These fruits produce clarity, unity, and brotherly love. This is the fertile soil in which will produce abundant fruit of growth and restoration.

God instructs us to minister to members of the Body and to receive ministry from our brethren when it is given to us. This is not something only the leadership of the church can do. We all are responsible for our brothers. Paul has written out some guidelines for us so we can be sure we are ministering in obedience.

- Before you offer help, examine yourself and your own fruit. Make sure you are the right person to offer help.
- Do not lose hope. Constant application of this Love will produce fruit.
- Realize your church leadership has been charged to guard your souls and plant the Word of Truth in your minds. They cannot let issues 'slide' without falling into sin themselves.
- Realize your job is to be uplifting and encouraging towards obedience and to admonish Lawlessness, but, before you admonish someone, be very sure that your 'house' is in order.
- This charge may be difficult, but it's not impossible. The Lord has given us ample faith for success. Don't get into the trap of 'waiting for more faith'. When you see it, act on it.
- A Christian's default reaction is to forgive.

## **Scripture References**

**Galatians 5:13-6:10** For you were called to freedom, brethren; only *do not turn* your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. (14) For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the *statement*, "YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF." (15) But if you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another. (16) But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. (17) For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please. (18) But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law. (19) Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, (20) idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, (21) envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. (22) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, (23) gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. (24) Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. (25) If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. (26) Let us not become boastful, challenging one another, envying one another. (6:1) Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; *each one* looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted. (2) Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ. (3) For if anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself. (4) But each one must examine his own work, and then he will have *reason for* boasting in regard to himself alone, and not in regard to another. (5) For each one will bear his own load. (6) The one who is taught the word is to share all good things with the one who teaches *him*. (7) Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. (8) For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. (9) Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary. (10) So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.

**Hebrews 13:7** Remember those who led you, who spoke the word of God to you; and considering the result of their conduct, imitate their faith.

**Romans 5:12-13** Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned-- (13) for until the Law sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law.

**Colossians 3:16-17** Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms *and* hymns *and* spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. (17) Whatever you do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

**1 Thessalonians 5:12-13** (12) But we request of you, brethren, that you appreciate those who diligently labor among you, and have charge over you in the Lord and give you instruction, (13) and that you esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Live in peace with one another.

Colossians 1:28-29 We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ. (29) For this purpose also I labor, striving according to His power, which mightily works within me.

Luke 17:3-6 "Be on your guard! If your brother sins, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. (4) "And if he sins against you seven times a day, and returns to you seven times, saying, 'I repent,' forgive him." (5) The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" (6) And the Lord said, "If you had faith like a mustard seed, you would say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and be planted in the sea'; and it would obey you.

We are glad you have chosen to listen to this sermon and pray that it gives you strength, the want for obedience, and a desire to have God's abundant Grace mortify sin in your life. If you have any questions or comments please email [chuck\\_ezell@yahoo.com](mailto:chuck_ezell@yahoo.com).