

Galatians 5:26-6:5

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Recap and Introduction

- Christians are in a constant state of struggle
 - The flesh wages war against the Spirit
- Victory over sin occurs when we crucify the flesh AND walk in the Spirit
 - Deliberate, decisive and daily
- Victory produces produce (i.e. the fruit of the Spirit) particularly towards fellow believers (Gal 6:10)

A call to examine ourselves

- Remember it's the fruit of the *Spirit*, not fruit of (insert *your name* here).
 - We can't take credit for what the Spirit produces anymore than we can blame God for what the flesh produces
- **Conceit**
 - Empty or vain boasting
 - Glory without reason
- **Provocation**
 - We are so convinced of our superiority that we jump at any change to show it off
- **Envy**
 - We are so debilitated by our inferiority that we resent all who possess more than us

The erring brother

- “**overtaken**”
 - Being caught due to weakness or being off guard.
 - To catch something before it can get away
- “**spiritual**”
 - Believers who *filled with* and are *walking in* the Spirit.
 - Not carnal (1 Cor 3:3)
- “**restore**”
 - Used of setting a broken bone, mending fishing nets (Mark 1:19), or teaching a student (Lk 6:40)
- “**gentleness**”
 - Same as Gal 5:23
 - Involves our mind (*thoughts*), heart (*emotions*) and behavior (*actions*)
 - “inwrought grace of the soul” (Vine), directed chiefly toward God but, also towards men
 - Accepts God’s dealings with us *as good* and therefore received without contest.
- The **goal** is to restore, not reject. The **motive** is to love, not lecture. The **method** is grace, not gloating. The **warning** is be careful, not careless.

Mind your own business...

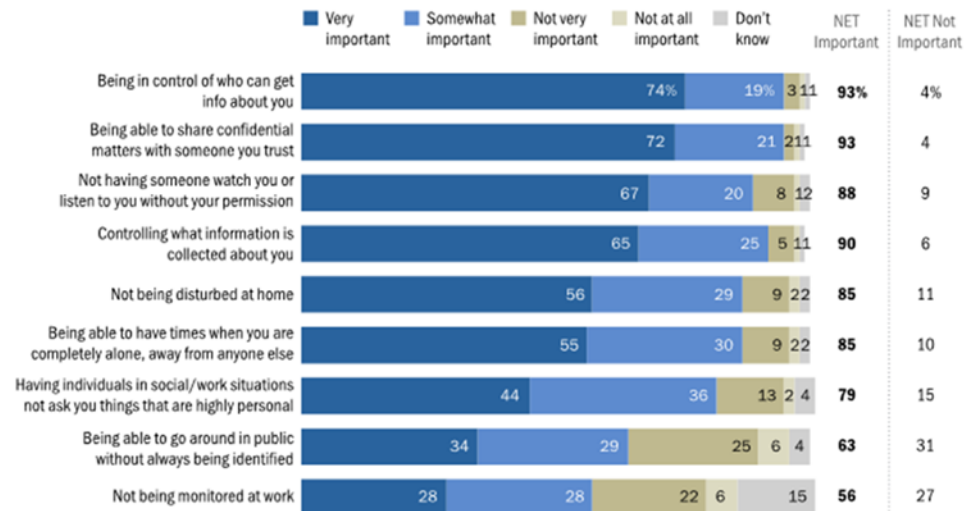
- Does the American value system, which seeks to uphold a standard of “privacy,” deter us from following Gal 6:1?
 - Think about our typical prayer requests...

- “Don’t ask me personal questions” – 79% (44%)

Americans Hold Strong Views About Privacy in Everyday Life

In response to the following question: “Privacy means different things to different people today. In thinking about all of your daily interactions – both online and offline – please tell me how important each of the following are to you . . .”

% of adults who say ...



Source: Pew Research Center's Privacy Panel Survey #4, Jan. 27, 2015-Feb. 16, 2015 (N=461). Refused responses not shown.

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The burdened brother

- Bear one another's burdens, or *baros* (v. 2) is different than bearing our own load, or *phortion* (v. 5)
 - **Baros:** a heavy, crushing weight, too substantial for any one person to carry alone
 - **Phor-ti-on:** a small backpack, *intended* to be carried alone (Matt 11:30)
- We often swap **baros** and **phortion**
 - “that’s their problem”
 - “I can handle this on my own”
- When we think we *are something* (when we are not), we exempt ourselves from burden-bearing
 - It’s “beneath” us
 - Christ has “dignified humility” (John 13:14)
- We are all accountable to God for how we respond to:
 - The work he has laid before us
 - The work that he purposed to do in us

Reflection Question #1

- One obvious piece of evidence that we are 1) standing firm in liberty and 2) walking in victory over the flesh is how we treat one another. What is it, then, that leads Christians to teach each other so poorly?
 - How have you experienced this in our own life (giving or receiving end), either within your close social network or the larger church body?

Reflection Question #2

- In this passage Paul distinguished between 1) our own load (phortion) and 2) the load of others (baros). How have you navigated these two aspects of Christian relationships?
 - Is serving often “beneath” you or inconvenient?
 - Is it difficult or humiliating to allow others to help you?
 - Are we a community that encourages proper Christian charity (giving and receiving help) towards each other *and* proper Christian accountability? If so, how? If not, where or why are we missing the mark?