**Live Free – Galatians 6:1-10 – It’s a Trap!**

**Mouse trap? We have sin traps – what happens when you’re caught? Or, see someone caught? That is what Paul is talking about today.**

**Recap – Paul writing to Galatian churches who were turning from the truth to a lie- personal, passionate emergency response for the gospel**

**Galatians 5:1 - It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.**

**Galatians tells us what the Gospel is and is not…**

**Galatians 5:13 You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love.**

**Paul described a warning - a war – and a walk**

**A Warning - don’t use your freedom as an excuse to go wild**

**A war - between the flesh (monster baby) and the Spirit –**

**A Walk – A prescription: draw close to Jesus and the flesh will die.**

**Gal 5 says – walk in the spirit – Gal 6 is how to practically practice it**

**Paul says – walk in the spirit and you won’t gratify the flesh… (Gal 5)**

**Unfortunately, some struggle w/ following Jesus – Ever known someone who started good, then fell away – I see it all the time**

**Galatians 6:1 Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted. 2 Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.**

**Galatians 6:1 Brothers and sisters, if someone caught in a sin (Caught in a trap)**

**POW! Overcome by temptation. Leg is caught…**

**…you who live by the Spirit**

**In every healthy church: Seeker – Stumbler – Sold out**

* **The Seeker Paul talked about earlier / the gospel – now we have**
* **The Stumbler Those believers caught in a trap “caught by sin” – and**
* **The Sold out (Spirit walkers) those who can help “who live by the S”**

**The Spirit of God would not kick someone when they’re down –**

**If someone is headed for a divorce, drinking too much, immorality - What should we do? If you are walking with Jesus, you will go and help**

**Gal 6:1 …you who live by the Spirit should restore that person…**

**Restore = mend a net / reset the bone - Spiritual EMT - Notice it doesn’t say, “Punish that person”- the consequences are the punishment.**

**So - How can we help? Five things we can do to be the Church**

**You have a friend, spouse, family member, co-workers…**

**1 - Be Gentle – Gal 6:1 …should restore that person gently.”**

**Restore = to reset - a broken bone gently - I’ve had broken bones – Dr. generally are not rough – it may break more**

**Handle it gently – don’t get mean or rough – or ruin reputations**

**I’ve seen harsh and mean-spirited judgmental correction – it drives people to bitterness – often jaded by the spiritual abuse.**

**Romans 2:3 So when you, a mere human being, pass judgment on them and yet do the same things, do you think you will escape God's judgment?4 Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, forbearance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness is intended to lead you to repentance?**

**Are you one who seeks to restore them? Are you kind, gentle, loving, compassionate (See Matthew 18:15-17 – restoration)**

**2 - Be Careful – Gal 6:1 …watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted.**

**Be careful that you don’t fall into sin too**

**Doctors wash their hands not just to keep from spreading germs but to protecting themselves also.**

**I see it in “Missionary dating” – or “happy hour evangelism” – Or trying to help a husband and end up talking badly about his own wife**

**1 Corinthians 10:12 - So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don’t fall!**

**\*\*\* Check yourself before you wreck yourself**

**3 – Be willing - to Walk through it with them**

**Gal 6:2 Carry each other’s burdens…**

**Carry Burden = like a bolder (Pic) a sin or situation / can’t bear it alone**

**Behind all our sin is often a heart issue that needs help**

**“…out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks.” (Luke 6:45)**

**Willing to take the time to help those hurting by finding out why they hurt and helping them walk through it.**

**…and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.**

**This is an echo from earlier - Gal 5:14 - For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." (this is what love looks like) \* John 13:34 – New command I give, love each other as I have loved you.**

**Galatians 6:3 If anyone thinks they are something when they are not, they deceive themselves. 4 Each one should test their own actions. Then they can take pride in themselves alone, without comparing themselves to someone else, 5 for each one should carry their own load.**

**3 – Be Humble**

**He is saying - Before you think your all that, & get self-righteous –look in the mirror – you have baggage & sin too – deal with it**

* + **We’ve all done things we regret – remember your journey**

**Note he is saying to the spiritual people have a “backpack” of struggles too – *you don’t* need to wait until you’re perfect to help**

**Gal 6:6 Nevertheless, the one who receives instruction in the word should share all good things with their instructor.**

**4 – Be Giving**

**90% of pastors struggle to make ends meet / 80% battle depression / burdened / lonely / fatigued / long hours**

(Hartford Institute for Religion, Reach Right Studios, Barna)

**Paul says – you are to carry each other’s burdens, but don’t forget your pastors too. Don’t be just a taker… give and show support.**

**Then he says concerning all these things I’ve talked about… let me tell you something – 6 – Be Consistent**

**Gal 6:7 Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. 8 Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.**

**Which ever one you sow to – you will reap – I don’t understand how my family, marriage, money, health got this way, why people don’t call me back, why I struggle with lust, why I lack friendships, why my kids so rebellious - What do you sew!**

**We think what we sow won’t matter – I can do this, be this - but…**

**7 Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.**

**Then we want results right away - I tried reading my bible, going to church, giving, being nice, loving my spouse…**

**Gal 6:9 Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.**

**5 Guess What’s - About the Trap**

**\* Guess what? Even Christians Sin**

**Galatians 6:1 Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin…**

**But Christians don’t sin, they’re perfect – not really?**

**The question is what do you do about it? Ignore – gossip – attack**

**\* Guess what? Even Christians get burdened**

**We all get burdens from time to time – weights to bear - Paul is saying we need each other – look out for each other**

**Gal 6:2 Carry each other’s burdens** - **that’s the body of Christ in action**

**Maybe you have a burden you can’t carry any longer –**

**\* Guess what? A Good church is one where people love you and are involved in your life**

**Where people care enough to not only laugh with you, but cry with, carry burdens with you, and even correct and discipline you –**

* **With humility and gentleness – we are in your business**

**\* Guess what? You won’t always see the fruit of faithfulness**

**I’ve tried and tried – I give up… on that friend – my marriage – family – don’t give up – don’t give in – be faithful.**

**I get that way too - God how long? - how many licks does it take? It’s not working anymore- I’m tired of trying- church is my issue**

**Gal 6:9 Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.**

* + **People who give up – never see the harvest**

**\* Guess what? You can be restored today – it is not too late!**

**Gal 6:1 - …you who live by the Spirit should restore that person**

**Maybe your arm is caught in a trap – the enemy is circling - maybe it’s a sin / a struggle / a situation…**

* **Others have walked by – Jesus and true Christians will not**

**Jesus is all about the catch and release.**

**Sin has caught you – but only Jesus can release you.**

**Galatians 6:10 Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.**

**Jesus sets us free – restores – heals – and still does**