

FALLEN COMRADES II

“Hold Them Up & Build Them Up”

Galatians 6:2-6

In FALLEN COMRADES I, we studied Galatians 6:1 and found that the Apostle Paul addressed the value and even the responsibility of “those who are spiritual” to be ready to be deployed to head up a rescue mission at a moment’s notice for a brother or sister who has fallen into sin. This week, Paul answers the question of why it is important not to just pick people up who are struggling spiritually and leave them there. When struggling believers are in a weakened spiritual condition they need to be held up and built up for a while. It’s discipleship. It’s love. It’s the way of the church.

“Bear one another's burdens, and thus fulfill the law of Christ.” Galatians 6:2

HOLD THEM UP

HOLD THEM UP BY PRAYER

Matthew 26:41, Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.

HOLD THEM UP BY FELLOWSHIP

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10, Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up!

HOLD THEM UP BY ACCOUNTABILITY

James 5:16, Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.

For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. Galatians 6:3.

Here, Paul is warning us against having a condescending attitude or behavior towards someone who is struggling spiritually. It’s a good thing to examine our own hearts and motives so we can avoid the temptation to compare where we are spiritually to where our fallen comrade is.

Galatians 6:4-5, But let each one test his own work, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor. For each will have to bear his own load.

So which is it? Bear each other's burdens...or bear your own burden?

It's both! The word for "burden" in verse 2 was "baros" which meant "heavy or difficult." In other words, carry each other's "difficult situations."

But here in verse 5, the Greek word Paul uses for "burden" is "phortion," which means "your usual load." In other words "picking up and holding up" spiritually struggling fellow-believers is to be standard operating procedure for all spiritually strong believers.

It's not just a pastor's ministry, or an elder's ministry. Bearing one another's burdens is not just a ministry for religious professionals. It is the normal portion of ministry for spiritually strong laymen and clergy alike. It's a normal, healthy way that a church operates.

BUILD THEM UP

Galatians 6:6, Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches. Good things, things of moral and spiritual excellence, things of truth—these are the things that flow out of the Word of God. If you are led by the Lord to pick up and hold up a fallen comrade—make sure when you begin building them back up spiritually that that your first responder first-aid kit consists of **your Bible** and a **commitment to pray!**

Galatians 6:1-6, Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. But let each one test his own work, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor. For each will have to bear his own load. Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches.