

9-1-24 How to Be a Perfect Christian

Week 3

Text: Galatians 6:1-5

Book Reference: “Chapter Three: Doing Life Together”

Big Idea of the Message (Satire): Perfect Christians, “never let anyone get close enough to your life to see what a mess it is below the surface.” (54).

Application Point (Not Satire): The only way for us to encourage, restore, and bear each other’s burdens is by pursuing authentic community.

What does the words authentic, transparent, and vulnerable mean? How do they make you feel?

“How to Be the Perfect Christian” The key to true Christian authenticity is to LOOK authentic without actually making yourself vulnerable. It is ok to refer to your family as beautifully messy, but keep any actual mess, shortcomings, or failures well hidden (page 54).

How often do we want to give off the air of “messy” without actually sharing our imperfect life with people?

Galatian 6:1-5 talks about restoring those who have sinned against others, as well as the importance of bearing one another’s burdens. How can we bear our friend’s burdens if we don’t know what those burdens are?

1. Like It or Not WE Are Family.

- **Verse 1, “Breathren”** means “of the same womb,” although we may not be related by human blood, we are related by God’s blood. The blood of His Son Jesus is the bond that binds us together.
- Every family has issues. Look around you, all those smiling faces have issues. (Look at them and say you have issues...now say so do I)
- And just like human blood relations, we don’t get to pick who is in our family. God’s family is full of “normal” people as well as crazy people. **“We are all a mess, some are just messier or of a different mess, but it doesn’t matter what type of glue you sniff, it’s still glue.”**
- Families have different dynamics; look at mine (picture of my family), there are so many different dynamics. So many different back stories, different pasts, different struggles, different likes and dislikes, but the one thing that binds us together is love. Unconditional love is one of God’s characteristics that is sown into our DNA.
- It is the same in God’s family, lots of diversity and dynamics, rather than allowing that to divide us, God desire and design is to use it to meld us together.
- Once we are born-again, added into the family of God, although we bring our differences in, God assimilates them into one people, one mind, one mission. His mission, His plan. And we must strive to come together, to assimilate into His family.

2. Families Are Messy!

- **Verse 1, "...if a man (anyone) is overtaken (overcome, caught) in any trespass (sin)..."**
- In my family there are secrets, scandals, and problems; so, and so did this to so and so, etc. Some of them have stuck together and some have stepped away trying to avoid all the drama.
- If we are not intentional about our spiritual lives, we **WILL** fall into sin. And not just a whoope quick slip into sin, but life changing sin.
- Satan is lurking, watching, seeking you out like a Lion seeks out its prey, waiting for just the right time to pounce on you and eat you up. When predators hunt, normally they seek out the weakest prey, but they are known to be opportunist and use the element of surprise to take down the strongest of prey.
- I want you to hear me...Satan and your flesh is always seeking ways to fulfill its ways.
- Our flesh doesn't know any better, it hungers after selfish desires, blindly, and it doesn't care if it is never satisfied, it just wants more.
- Satan's desire is to destroy all things, he hates God and everything God stands for; and if he can hurt God by destroying you, it's a win-win.
- Families, whether they are blood or not, or spiritual will be full of messiness, because people are messy!
- In God's family we are to push in closer and love one another, rather than avoiding or pushing away.

3. As A Family, We MUST Be Prepared.

- **Verse 1, "... you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness..."**
- **"You who are spiritual, you who are godly, restore..."** We must be spiritually ready, we have an obligation to be ready for when one of our family members falls into sin, whether it was a slow burn or a surprise failure.
- How ready are you? "Umm, that's the elders, deacons and pastors' issue!" Hmm, are you sure?
- How someone responds/reactions to the messiness (sin) is a tell of where they are spiritually. It should surprise us, and we should want to eradicate it, but we must remember to start from a place of restoring in a spirit of gentleness.
- I must confess that I have not always responded in a spirit of gentleness. I like how the amplified and the paraphrase version of the message translates it.

Brothers, if anyone is caught in any sin, you who are spiritual [that is, you who are responsive to the guidance of the Spirit] are to restore such a person in a spirit of gentleness [not with a sense of superiority or self-righteousness], keeping a watchful eye on yourself, so that you are not tempted as well. AMP

If someone falls into sin, forgivingly restore him, saving your critical comments for yourself. You might be needing forgiveness before the day's out. Stoop down and reach out to those who are oppressed. The Message

“Nothing reveals the wickedness of legalism better than the way the legalists treat those who have sinned.” -Wiersbe

- The loving, spiritual (godly) brother would seek to restore the brother in love, while the legalist would exploit the brother.
- The word **“restore”** means to mend (set) as a broken bone. The sinning family member is like a broken bone in the body, and they need to be restored.
- We must not be the family member that instead of trying to restore, reset the floundering family member, instead they choose to ridicule, speak words of hate, hold bitterness and even use the family members sin to make them look good. To make themselves look more righteous.
- **“...in a spirit of gentleness...”** We must come from a place of humility, to stoop down and reach out. The idea is of a family member has fallen into a pit and can’t figure out how to get out. We must get low and reach out to them and help pull them out.
- **“...considering yourself lest you also be tempted.”** A loving, spiritual (godly) family member living by grace knows that **NO** one is immune from falling. They have an attitude of humility because they are very aware of their own weaknesses.
- Not only that, they (spiritual, godly) family member knows the love of Christ in their own heart. **“...the law of Christ.”** Which is **“Love one another” (John 13:34; 15:12).**
- Paul has already discussed the **“law of love” (Gal. 5:13-15)**, and now is applying it.
- It takes a great deal of love and courage for us to approach a family member who has fallen into sin and seek to help them. It is important to rescue unbelievers (unchurched), but it is also important to rescue believers who have wandered off the path.

4. No Matter What Family is Family.

- **Verse 2, “Bear one another’s burden...”**
- There is no contradiction between **Galatians 6:2** and **verse 5**, because two different Greek words for burden are used. In **Galatians 6:2**, it is a word meaning “a heavy burden,” while in **6:5** it describes “a soldiers pack.” We should help each other bear the heavy burdens of life, but there are personal responsibilities that each one of us must bear for themselves.

Bear one another’s burdens, and thus fill up the law of Christ. (Gal. 6:2)

For each one shall be bearing (their) own load. (Gal. 6:5) Clear Literal Version

- If my car breaks down, I may need one of you to give my kids a lift somewhere, but that doesn’t relieve me of my duties as their father. It is wrong for me to expect somebody else to be the father in my family; that is a burden (and a privilege) that I alone can bear.
- **Read verses 3-4.**
- I love how the New Living Translation translates **verses 3-4:**

If you think you are too important to help someone, you are only fooling yourself. You are not that important. 4 Pay careful attention to your own work, for then you will get the satisfaction of a job well done, and you won’t need to compare yourself to anyone else.

- We all have that family member who thinks they are all that and a bag of chips. They think they have it all together and if you were just like them, you would be better off. Fellow believers, we are one family under our Heavenly Father and the only person we can fool is ourselves.
- No matter what, whether you are fooling yourself, or if you are the humblest of humble and working hard to please Jesus, WE ARE FAMILY! NO MATTER WHAT!

Conclusion

Like It or Not WE Are Family.

Families Are Messy!

As A Family, We MUST Be Prepared.

No Matter What Family is Family.

Sought after (Isa. 62:12) Precious in his sight (Isa. 43:4) A new creation in Christ (2 Cor. 5:17) Not condemned (Rom. 8:1) Forgiven (Col. 1:14) Loved (1 John 3:1) Accepted (Rom. 15:7) A child of God (John 1:12) Jesus' friend (John 15:14) Free (John 8:36) The temple of God (1 Cor. 6:19) God's treasured possession (Deut. 7:6) Complete in Christ (Col. 2:10 NLT) **Chosen (Col. 3:12) Called (2 Tim. 1:9) An ambassador of the Most High God (2 Cor. 5:20) God's masterpiece (Eph. 2:10 NLT) Able to do all things through Christ, who gives you strength (Phil. 4:13) More than a conqueror through Jesus, who loves you (Rom. 8:37)**

