

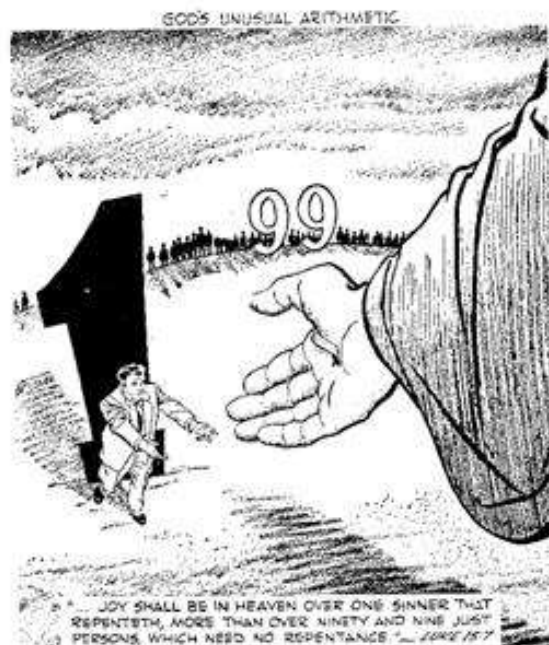
RESTORE SUCH A ONE

(Gal 6:1) *“Brethren, even if a man is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, **restore such a one** in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, lest you too be tempted.”*

No doubt many weak Christians are not restored because the restorer is not as spiritual as he or she think themselves to be. As a result, gentleness may be lacking. Some try to hide or justify their own sin by seeking out and calling attention to the sin of others. In such a situation, the spirit is often one of arrogance rather than gentleness. Sometimes a parent or a spouse who has been frustrated in their efforts to convert or restore some member or members of their own family will become a busybody in other people’s matters. They will many times manifest an attitude that borders on glee when they can find failures evident in the lives of others, especially in the lives of those whose reputation seems to be held in esteem by others. Some, who feel they themselves have failed, develop an inferior concept of themselves, but try to disguise it with constant bickering, complaining and faultfinding directed toward others.

Somewhere along the way the real need is neglected or overlooked. The need when overtaken in a fault is restoration. The desire of the faithful Christian is to abide always in good spiritual health. He wishes for all others to have the same status before God. He knows that a weak or dislocated member is not pleasing to God, and is a hindrance to the proper functioning of the body of Christ. Just as the other members of the physical body sympathize with a weak or sick member and nurse it back to health with tender care; so should the healthy members of Christ’s spiritual body conduct themselves toward the weak and sick members of the church.

It is never an occasion for joy or self-righteousness when another falls into sin, but an occasion to help bring them back to forgiveness and good spiritual health. To restore is to bring back to a former status or



station in life. However, if our efforts to restore are not motivated by a proper disposition to do God's will, we may be tempted and overcome by haughty arrogance. Be gentle, but be firm. Remember, to permit them to continue in sin is not **restoring such a one**. Sin is sin, and condemns the soul to spiritual death when it is not forgiven. God's forgiveness requires the repentance of the sinner. Often in our efforts to be kind and gentle, we may permit a weak brother to conclude that it is all right to sin and to continue in sin. Let us look to ourselves, lest we be tempted to sin in our efforts to restore.

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