

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

A Message of Hope and Fulfillment For Those Longing For God

Recovering Godly Behavior

Galatians 6:2

INTRODUCTION: In the first eight chapters of Luke's Gospel a significant amount of the text is concerned with attitudes toward one another by Kingdom citizens. This includes how we view and treat others both within and outside of the Kingdom of God. I titled the message, *Recovering Godly Behavior*, because the life of Christ reproduced in us by the Holy Spirit, is a redeemed life that restores God-like character qualities which were lost in the downfall of humankind. Some of those key principles include:

I. Be Devoted to One Another in Brotherly Love

Desiring one another's success

II. Bear One Another's Burdens and Thereby Fulfill the Law of Christ

Coming along side in one another's struggles

III. Be Diligent to Preserve the Unity of the Spirit in the Bond of Peace

Working hard at preserving unity, harmony, and peace in the Body

IV. Be Kind to One Another, Tender Hearted, Forgiving Each Other

Being willing to forgive and let go of offenses against us personally, and against the Body of Christ, in the same way that we have been forgiven by God in Jesus Christ

V. Consider How to Stimulate One Another to Love and Good Deeds

Being pro-active and giving thought to how we can encourage each other to be loving (an active verb) and ready to do good for one another

CONCLUSION: How do these attitudinal and behavioral admonitions affect you? How do you measure up in reflecting godly character? What needs to change in your heart?

Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor; not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer, contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality.

Romans 12:9-13

Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ. For if anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself.

Galatians 6: 1-3

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What kinds of actions reflect your interest in another person's success?
2. What does "success" mean in Biblical terms?
3. How do we bear one another's burdens when the other person has caused their own difficulty? What does that look like?
4. What is implied by "consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds"?
5. What kinds of activities might we be doing if we are preserving the unity of the Spirit?
6. What does it mean to forgive one another *AS GOD HAS FORGIVEN YOU*?
7. What does God need to transform in you to make you more like this type of Kingdom citizen?

Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Ephesians 4: 1-3

Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

Ephesians 4: 30-32

Let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

Hebrews 10:24-25

NOTES