

The Church As A Laundry

“Brothers if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you may also be tempted.”(Galatians 6:1).

To all of us, in addition to our life that we live inside the church society we are spending our time in other societies as well. Whether we are working in offices, factories, banks, schools, hospitals, shops, etc., we are meeting the other societies to supply our daily needs as in the supermarkets, restaurants, bus and taxi stations, etc. And in all these places we are meeting people of different social classes whom are outside the arena of our church. In all the above places we surely face something widespread and obvious to our eyes, and this is the human sin.

Our longing to the Utopia, the imaginary place or state where all is perfect without sin, and our desire to the ideal life without flaw maybe one of the reason that draw us toward the new life, the new environment and the novel society inside the new family of the church. But unfortunately, still we may face the same and ultimately we will come to know that the sting of death, the sin, is there as well. We should be expecting it and we should not be amazed from that, for the Lord Jesus is calling sinners and not righteous one! He is calling people to join His body to be purged and sinners to be washed.

What else more we can say about the topic of this week: When we face people sinning outside the church we may keep silent although their sins may hurt us. But to tell you the truth, the same thing should not happen inside the church. Not only the sin should not happen, but also if we find in one of the church corners, over the shelves, under the tables, in the upper story or when we stumble with it over the ground we should not act indifferently to it. For the church is also a place of washing and sanctifying. It is in fact a big washing machine, and we are part of this laundry with the full responsibilities that will follow after.

Paul who wrote this verse to the Galatians used the word brothers. When he said this he expects all what the word ‘brothers’ means. God installed brothers in the beginning of this verse to correct someone who is caught in a sin. The word brothers are not a simple word to be said here, but it is a bearer of love and the vase of compassion. Here the word brothers come out from the trumpet of the Lord, calling you to participate in the task of cleaning in this big laundry machine!

Bur foe every game there are rules and for every dirt a detergent to be used and the following from the above verse can be concluded:

1- If someone caught in a sin: We should not look and search for the sin. Should we be a faultfinders? It is not the message and it is not the right way! But when sin comes across the way with repeated and convincing evidence, something has to be done. But we should be careful of

this: many acts we observe seem to us it is a sin, where in fact our brothers are innocent from that particular sinful act. Be careful with such judgement! The word of God said ‘if someone is caught in a sin’ means there is no doubt at all about it, the evidences are complete and the witnesses are in the hand. **“One witness is not enough to convict a man accused of any crime or offense he may have committed. A matter must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.” (Deuteronomy 19:15)**

2-You who are spiritual: Paul addresses this responsibility to the members of the church and he gave them this adjective “spiritual.” This word entails the following questions: Does God made us recognize this brother’s sin? Am I the perfect person that God may use to interfere? Should other people be involved with this issue? Whom I should consult and take the advice? Also ask yourself, what is in your heart toward this brother and what is your motive toward him?

Being spiritual in facing such situation we should go to God in prayers, and He will answer all those questions, and He will tell us what to do, whom we will bring with us, and He will put the words in our mouth. In addition, we have to pray for that person and God will send His angels to pave the way toward the heart of this brother who sin.

3-Should restore Him: In accordance with this verse, when God use you to purge a particular person remember the word ‘should’ or the compulsory act that you have to do, with only one motive in your mind, that your goal should not be less than the restoration of that person.

4-Gently: Which means choose the right word and the right pattern of speech, and according to type of relation and the degree of intimacy between both of you. Do your best not to injure him. Remember, there are many ways to rebuke that does not hurt. And finally, crown the word gentleness with your silence and by keeping your brother’s secrets.

5-But watch yourself, or you may also be tempted: This is used by Paul as a balance to a specific point in this subject to you who are spiritual. And he is reminding you that if God used you to restore that person remember that you may also fall in the trap of the tempter. So watch yourselves! And the other point is that you should not look to yourself higher than the other person that you are going to restore.

My Dear and Beloved: Thanks be to God who armed us with this Bible that carries many methods of teaching and different ways of correction to be learned. Therefore we ought to watch our hearts and observe our steps while we are in the laundry and follow the above rules. Nothing more we can say about this verse that we discuss this week other than look around, once to the left and once to the right, and to answer the following questions: Are we aware about the above rules and we are following them? Are we the right detergent that God may use? Do we need to speak to one brother who is caught in a sin? Can we please God by doing our part in such a ministry? Let us commit ourselves to God and pray.

My Prayer: *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord I commit myself to do your work and your will. Lord equips me with kindness and gentleness to restore people back to you. This all we ask in Jesus name, Amen.*