**Hindrances to Aiding Our Brethren**

**Introduction**

1. We are called to bear each other’s burdens as we seek to get to heaven (**cf. Galatians 6:1-2**).
   1. This is manifested in many forms – teaching, correcting, reproving, rebuking, exhorting, prayers, etc.
2. Sometimes we find ourselves balking at aiding our brethren in spiritual matters. Why is this so?
3. The truth is, Satan is hard at work to set up hindrances in our way so that we cannot aid our brethren when we need to.
4. We firstly need to make sure we are right with the Lord for our own good, but also our self-examination will prepare us to fulfil our familial obligations toward each other in the body of Christ.
5. What are some hindrances to aiding our brethren?
   1. (Note that pride is obviously a hindrance, but that we covered that in part in **Galatians 6:3-4** from the morning sermon)
6. Sin in Your Life
7. The Condition of Being a Restorer
   1. **Galatians 6:1** – you who are spiritual.
      1. The one who is walking according to the Spirit’s teaching – **Galatians 5:24-25**
      2. How can we correct someone, and turn them back to the straight and narrow if we ourselves are in need of correction?
   2. It is not only ineffective to attempt to restore someone to something you yourself are erring in, but foolish, for you need the same change.
8. The Hindrance of Sin in Restoration
   1. In the context of hypocritical judgment – **Matthew 7:4-5**
      1. Jesus does not condemn judgment, nor aiding the brother with the speck.
      2. He simply points out the hypocrisy and folly in seeking to aid one in sin when you yourself are in sin.
   2. Consider: restoration of an erring brother is a reconciliation of relationship to Christ.
      1. How can we expect to help another who is struggling in their relationship with Christ if we do not have a healthy relationship with Him ourselves?
      2. Such is like a marriage counselor with 5 divorces advising a struggling couple!
   3. EX: qualifications of elders:
      1. Elders are leaders in aiding the brethren – shepherding the flock.
      2. The first qualification is blamelessness – **1 Timothy 3:2**
      3. This, along with other qualifications, allows him to faithfully and effectively carry out his duty – **Titus 1:5-6, 9**
9. Lacking Love for the Truth
10. The Imperative of Love for Truth
    1. Jesus is the word, and the word is truth – **John 1:14; 17:17**
    2. Jesus is the truth – **John 14:6**
    3. The truth revealed by the Holy Spirit belongs to Jesus – **John 16:13-14** (All of the New Testament)
    4. The truth and Jesus are inseparable – we must view an assault on truth as an assault on Jesus!
11. Failing to Deal with Sin Manifests Lacking Love for Truth
    1. Consider the Corinthians:
       1. **1 Corinthians 5:1-2, 6-8** (unleavened bread of sincerity and truth) – their failure to deal with the sinful brother put him in danger, but also tainted the body of Christ.
       2. **2 Corinthians 7:11** – what godly sorrow produced in them when the repented at the reception of Paul’s 1st letter.
          1. **Indignation** – a righteous anger toward that which is contrary to truth.
          2. **Vindication** – against one who had turned from and assaulted the truth.
             1. When sin is committed someone is wronged.
             2. Jesus is always wronged
    2. One of the many reasons we should love truth is that it sets us free from sin – **John 8:31-32**
       1. Therefore, when we see a brother depart from truth, we know they’re separated from Christ.
       2. We want them to see the value of truth and turn them back to it.
12. Contrariwise, it manifests a lack of hatred for sin.
    1. To love the truth is to hate sin:
       1. Sin is a transgression of law (truth).
       2. God hates sin – **cf. Proverbs 6:16-19** (7 abominations to the Lord)
    2. One purpose of the cross is to condemn sin – **Romans 8:3** (condemned sin in the flesh)
       1. Christ dying on the cross is a manifestation of God’s hatred for sin.
       2. Propitiation (**Romans 3:25**) – Christ’s death satisfies God’s wrath against sin.
       3. Willful sin **– Hebrews 10:26, 29** – spits at Christ sacrifice.
    3. If we viewed sin the way God does, we wouldn’t hesitate to rescue our brethren from it!
13. Lacking Knowledge
14. The Connection of Knowledge and Love
    1. In aiding our brethren, we fulfill the law of Christ which is ultimately to love one another – **Galatians 6:2; 5:14**
    2. Love as shown in the New Testament is not aimless. It has a standard. **(1 John 4:8** – ultimately God)
    3. Love must be in knowledge and discernment – **Philippians 1:9-11**
       1. **(v. 10)** – the only way to approve excellent things and be free from sin.
       2. **(v. 11)** – the only way to bear fruits of righteousness.
15. When Knowledge is Lacking
    1. **Hosea 4:6** – destruction is in the wake of ignorance.
    2. Cannot aid another if you don’t know the truth well enough to see they need help.
    3. Cannot know how to help them if you don’t know the truth:
       1. **Matthew 18:15-17** – when one sins against you.
       2. **Galatians 2:11-14** – when one sins publicly.
       3. **Jude 22-23** – obvious distinctions to be made on how to deal with the sinner.
    4. We cannot help each other to heaven if we don’t know how to get there ourselves.
16. Lacking Love for Souls
17. We Must Gain the Perspective of Christ
    1. Humanity in general (exception of some) acknowledges the value of human life and seeks to protect it.
       1. Heroes are rightfully praised and rewarded.
       2. Constant research for physical maladies.
    2. However, the world fails to realize the most valuable component of human life – the soul.
       1. Christians understand it greater than anyone.
       2. However, sometimes our failure to act in ways to aid each other in our battles with sin is due to a failure to acknowledge the value of the soul.
    3. Jesus showed the true value of the human soul – **Mark 8:34-37** – nothing is worth trading our soul for.
       1. Those who understand these principles given by Jesus should be motivated to rescue those in sin.
18. We Must Have the Urgency of Christ
19. **Luke 19:10** – Jesus came to seek and save the lost.
20. Jesus came for the express purpose of rescuing souls – **Luke 15:1-7** (parable of lost sheep – followed by lost coin, and lost son)
21. If we truly value the human soul we will not hesitate to reach out to one troubled by sin to rescue it.

**Conclusion**

1. God has commanded that we bear each other’s burdens, but we must not allow ourselves to be hindered from doing so.
2. We must take care of our own business so we can aid our brethren in their struggles as well.