

ONLY THE BROKEN

Week 12 | Only The Broken | October 11, 2015

Special Focus: How are Christians to live in community?

Opening Up:

Our maternal voice says, "I love you." Our paternal voice says, "I believe in you." We need to feel both acceptance and courage.

- In what context do you feel most uncomfortable and feel a need to be accepted?
- Where in your life do you need the most courage? What would you do if you knew you would not fail?

Reference: Galatians 5:26 - 6:5

Discuss:

1. Conceit manifests itself in a provocative (competitive) spirit or a spirit of envy. When is your heart lead to be competitive with others? When do you feel envious of others?
2. How will having a self-image based on the gospel change the way you see yourself and see others? When do you particularly need to preach the gospel to yourself?
3. What are the barriers to sharing your burdens? What are the barriers to bearing someone else's burdens?
4. What might be the consequences if we were never assertive enough to ask about each others burdens or humble enough to share our burdens?
5. Are there any life burdens (small or large) that you need to share?
6. The scripture says that we should restore sinners caught in sin gently. What would it look like to restore someone gently?
7. Why is being a spiritually mature Christian necessary for gentle restoration? Why would choosing a conceited Christian for a restoration ministry be a bad a idea? How might a competitive or envious spirit impact a sinners restoration?
8. Christianity is not a private mystical experience. Christianity is a communal experience that is best understood as a loving and selfless family. Burden bearing could never happen in isolation. What gets in the way of the familial experience of Christianity?
9. John Stott writes, "This paragraph is the New Testament answer to Cain's irresponsible question 'Am I my brother's keeper?' (Gn. 4: 9). If a man is my brother, then I am his keeper. I am to care for him in love, to be concerned for his welfare. I am neither to assert my fancied superiority over him and 'provoke him', nor resent his superiority over me and 'envy' him. I am to love him and to serve him. If he is heavy-laden, I am to bear his burdens. If he falls into sin, I am to restore him, and that gently." **How does the life described here differ from the American ideal? What is a practical way we could do this better?**
10. Pray.

