

This Month's D-group Focus: Restoring the Sinner

Christians are commanded to help one another turn back from the sin that can so easily and quickly take over our lives. Too often we think there are parts of our lives that are sinful that we need to do battle with the good parts of our lives. The Bible says that every part of us is sinful while at the same time covered by Christ's work. The gospel is our hope. And only where Christ is ruling in our lives is there any good. Christians—even "good" Christians—can be caught in sin. We love and serve one another as Christian brothers and sisters by restoring each other.

"Brothers and sisters, if someone is overtaken in any wrongdoing, you who are spiritual, restore such a person with a gentle spirit, watching out for yourselves so that you also won't be tempted." (Galatians 6:1 CSB)

There are a few things we need to take note of:

- "Brothers and sisters": This is something that we do inside the family of faith.
- "Overtaken": This often means that we are in a routine or pattern of sin, but it can mean we are consumed by a one-time sin.
- "Any": There is not any sin that we don't need restoration from.
- "Restore": This means bringing someone back into right fellowship, not casting out or rejecting that person because of sin.
- "Watching out": We are all equally prone to sin. God using us for the sake of our brother or sister is a picture of his grace to others, not a fruit of our own goodness.

Using this verse, engage with your small group on how you can restore one another when caught in sin, and take this as an opportunity to practice repentance and pointing one another to the gospel.

Before you launch into the D-group questions, discuss these questions:

- 1) Do you find erring brothers and sisters confronted as often as necessary?
- 2) Why is it sometimes easier to overlook sin and allow it to continue?
- 3) How does one know if he or she is "spiritual" enough to restore someone?
- 4) How can you distinguish between pickiness and the times when you should confront sin?

1) What am I experiencing? (emotions, events, and relationships)

A. Share the last time someone confronted you about a sin. Press deeper than a marital annoyance. How are people in your life confronting you when you sin against God and people?

B. Do you need to confess a sin to someone in your group right now? Is someone in your group overtaken by a sin right now?

2) Why am I experiencing this? (circumstances, empathy, and sin)

A. Why do you find it difficult to confront others who are caught in sin?

B. Why do you avoid situations where someone may confront you about your sin?

3) How should I respond? (repentance and reconciliation)

A. There are two warnings in Galatians 6:1 for confronting those caught in sin. We are to be gentle, and we are to watch ourselves so that we too are not tempted. How can we proactively heed these warnings?

B. What do we need to believe about the gospel so that we are open to regularly being restored and restoring others when caught in sin?