

Transformed – teen devotion – September 18, 2016

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Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted. Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. If anyone thinks they are something when they are not, they deceive themselves. Each one should test their own actions. Then they can take pride in themselves alone, without comparing themselves to someone else, for each one should carry their own load.

Galatians 6:1-4

Check Yourself

Don't you dislike it when someone starts bragging? You know what I mean, don't you? You have a friend or a classmate who talks about all the kind things that they've done for other people. You see their Facebook post about how they've helped those in need. Does that kind of thing ever get under your skin? I know it does mine.

But why? As the apostle Paul rightly tells us, we should be the kind of people who help to carry the burdens of other people. Shouldn't we be thankful for their kindness to other people rather than upset about it? Shouldn't we praise God for the way they serve other people? Shouldn't we be encouraged to follow their example as we follow Christ's example first of all?

Check yourself. We're often upset because we want that same pat on the back. We want that praise and applause from our crowd of friends. We want the 'like', maybe even the 'love', from our followers.

Check yourself. We live for an audience of One—Jesus Christ, not for feathers in our hat or for likes from our friends. We live to please Jesus and serve him. In response to his love for us, we live to love those around us and to help them in their need. And that has nothing to do with what other people are doing. That has nothing to do with what other people are saying.

Check yourself. But not against the attitudes or actions of others. Check yourself against the clear words of God. Check yourself against the example that Jesus set. Check yourself daily and bring your thinking, your talking, your walking, and even your serving into line with God's will and word.

Prayer:

Lord God, I often find myself in competition with other people in this world. I find myself competing to get the most likes, the most applause from other people in my life. Forgive me, Lord. Remind me that I already have the most important applause from you, who says even of me, “You are my beloved child, with whom I am well pleased.” Amen.

Teen  Devotions are brought to you by WELS Commission on Youth and Family Ministry.

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