

Restoring Damaged People

“if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness (Galatians 6:1).

If you’ve ever been to a consignment shop you know there are quality items at discounted prices; you just have to know what you’re looking for. Jesus does!

In His eyes the don-and-out may be “down” but they’re not “out.” Peter’s sorrow over denying Jesus ran so deep that he decided to go back to his old job as a fisherman. Can you imagine the talk around the harbor? “That’s him, the guy who turned his back on Jesus.”

Peter eventually became one of the leaders of the New Testament church. But be honest. Would you have voted him in as your pastor, or been willing to listen to anything he had to say?

Unfortunately, we are too quick to criticize people because of what they’ve done. In some cases it’s because of what they have done to others, in some cases because of what others have done to them or because what they have done to us.

Yet the first person Jesus went looking for after He rose from the dead was Peter. Why? Because Jesus looks beyond our immediate problem and sees our long-term potential. Jesus remembered the words He had spoken to Peter: “Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you returned to Me, strengthen your brethren (Luke 22:31-31).

Did you know the foundation principle of practicing medicine is “First, do no harm.” When someone is damaged, don’t damage them further. Love them, pray for them, seek to restore them.

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