

### **The Five (Part 3)**

#### *Ingredients needed for Great fellowship*

(Matthew 7:12)

*“A Pinch of Restoration”*

**Introduction:** Right in the middle of Jesus’ *Sermon on the Mount* we find this crucial relational command. *“Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.”* (Matt 7:12) Earlier in this sermon He warned us about having an unforgiving spirit toward one another. And here He warns us of the need to approach others as if their struggles were our very own. Paul also addresses this thought when he writes: *(Rom 12:10-16)* So, as we continue to add the necessary ingredients to our recipe for “Great fellowship.” We started with a heavy dose of Love. We stirred in a lot of humility. And today, we add a much needed pinch of restoration! This is the need to be on the lookout for that brother or sister who may be drifting and lovingly bring them back into fellowship with God and the church. At the heart of this ingredient is the desire to honor others and have a willingness to get involved in meeting their needs. The truth is, we have a lot of people who are sidelined or even leaving the church today because they’re straying or hurting and no one seems to notice or care. But, what if it were you? Would you want someone to notice and care enough to reach out to you? I’m sure you probably would, but this is also very sensitive work. So, how can we graciously and helpfully add this very important ingredient of restoration to our recipe for Great fellowship? (First...)

#### **I. We must recognize those in need of restoration:**

- A. The word restore means,** “return something to previous condition: This is what we are to do for wayward saints.
  - 1. What makes this my business** – Two things...
    - a. One, we are called to “restore” those who have fallen and to help those who are hurting.
    - b. Two, this is part of what it means to be a part of the fellowship. It is the work of the church to care for and minister to one another. *(2 Cor 5:18-20)*
- B. The work of restoring means,** to bring back the straying or hurting saints to right fellowship with God and the church.
- C. Who are those who need restoring?** (The Bible gives us examples of what to look for...)

- 1. A brother or sister** who gets caught up in sin. *(Gal. 6:1-2)* Or...
  - 2. A brother or sister** who has purposefully walked away from their faith *(Js. 5:19-20)*
  - 3. A brother or sister** who is suffering or hurting *(1 Jn. 3:16-18)*
- We have a duty and an obligation to be ministers of reconciliation and work toward the spiritual restoration and unity in the body.

#### **II. We must respond to those in need of restoration:** In order to do this, let’s look deeper into the three examples. But first...

- A. A couple of notes about restorers** – Paul gives us some cautions.” *(Gal 6:1)*
  - 1.** The ministry of reconciliation is not everyone’s job. (It’s not a job for the self righteous bully!)
  - 2.** A fundamental cause for people to become ensnared in the first place is pain.
- B. A couple of notes to restorers** – We should all strive to be in place to be a spiritual restorer.
  - 1. The case of one caught in sin** – the word caught means to stumble into a trap. This is a case of the strong helping the weak.
  - 2. In the case of one who walks away** – James writes, *(Js 5:19)* (See Mt. 18:12; Jer. 15:19) *(1 Cor. 5:5, 11; Matt. 18:15-17; 2 Cor. 2:6-8; 1 Tim. 5:20)*
  - 3. In the case of the suffering or hurting** - *(1 Jn 3:16-18)*
    - a. Restoration is an act of love –
    - b. Restoration not only retrieves wayward saints, it also relieves overloaded saints.

#### **III. We must remember we all may have a need of restoration at some time:**

- A. When it comes to our restoration ministry** – We need God’s wisdom as to where and when to get involved.
- B. When it comes to our restoration ministry** – This ministry is personal and relational.
- C. When it comes to our restoration ministry** – In order for someone to receive, there must be those who give. *(Acts 2:44-45).*
- D. When it comes to our restoration ministry** – we need to understand rescuing others isn’t easy.

**Conclusion:** Adding a much needed pinch of restoration is hard work. Staying with it takes devotion and a commitment to seeing others grow and having a willingness to get involved in meeting their needs.