



Sermon Main Idea:

As a church in transition, we must navigate communication and conflict by each carrying his/her own load and the oppressive burdens of others. The staff and LT created a “Communication Covenant” to set the structure for Riverside moving forward.

Introduction:

1. How have you seen comparison as the “thief of joy”?
2. What are some “oppressive burdens” that you see in our community?

SORP:

Scripture | read Galatians 6:1-5

Observation | what do we notice? what stands out?

1. Why do you think Paul gives the warning to “watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted” after exhorting those who are led by the Spirit to restore others who are caught in sin? (verse 1)
2. How does carrying each other’s burdens fulfill the law of Christ?
3. What do you think Paul might have meant when he said “if anyone thinks they are something when they are not”?
4. How do you think the deceit of self that Paul refers to in verse 3 relates to the temptation he speaks of in verse 1?
5. What role did comparison play in this whole concept of carrying the burdens of others and the load of your own?
6. How do you think the instruction to test their own actions in verse 4 connects to the instruction to carry their own load in verse 5?

Response | how can we respond in our lives to what we learn?

1. Why is it easier to “restore others who are caught in sin” than it is to “test [your] own actions”?
2. What temptations do you suffer when your attention is drawn to the sins of others?
3. What oppressive burdens of others do you feel God calling you to carry?
4. What areas of life do you tend to struggle with comparing yourself to others, rather than to yourself? What impact does that have on your life? How might you reorient your thinking in that area?
5. Read through Riverside’s Communication Covenant together (<https://www.rcovenant.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/ApprovedCommunicationCovenant.pdf>). Discuss what stands out to you and how you think you, as a part of Riverside, can grow in any of the areas mentioned.
6. How might God be calling you to respond to His Word today?

Prayer | ask God to help you live out your response