



**Crossing the Line**  
**Love Doesn't Run, Or Rescue (Galatians 6:1-5)**  
 By Pastor David Hillis, 30 April 2017

**BIG IDEA:** We love people who cross the line by being full of grace (helping bear each other's burdens), and truth (confronting and explaining consequences for bad behaviors).

Who are the most difficult people in your life? Those people it is most difficult to stay in healthy relationships with?

- Maybe it's someone you want to run from; you see them and you just want to run the other way because they have said and done things that have really hurt you.
- Maybe it's someone you love, but they seem to be in trouble all the time and expect you to rescue them.

**What Tough Love Does:**

**1. Love confronts when appropriate, rather than running.** (v1; Matthew 18:15-20)

- Verse 1 reminds us that we are called to confront humbly and with a spirit of gentleness, as Jesus, our role model did.
- We need to tell each other the truth; each one of us has blind spots. They're all different, but we're naive to think we don't all have them.

**2. Love doesn't rescue, but does bear others' burdens.** (v2-5; Romans 15:1-2)

- The word "burdens" in v2 is the Greek word *baros*, which is a heavy weight that "carries personal and eternal significance." It is the crises, the major crossroads in a person's life that are so big, so heavy, and so weighty, that they are really hard to carry on our own.
- When v5 says, "...each will have to bear his own load," that word "load" does not mean the same as burden. When Paul wrote this book, he used the Greek word *phortion*, which means "a personal weight or obligation." It's those daily challenges that come with life that we'd like someone to carry for us, but thy cannot. If you try to take someone else's personal load, their *phortion*, you actually are becoming co dependent. You are rescuing, and God never intended for you to ever be anyone's savior.

God's design for every relationship is one that always holds two elements in balance: grace and truth.

**NEXT STEP:**

*Who are the difficult, challenging people in your life? How does God want you to show more grace (help carry their burdens) and more truth (refuse to manage their own responsibilities) to them? Commit to following through today, without running or rescuing.*

**FOR MY PERSONAL TIME WITH GOD THIS WEEK:**

1. Reread Galatians 6:1-5. Everyone has burdens that can sometimes be too much to bear alone. How can you offer love to people bearing heavy burdens without infringing on their responsibilities from God to handle their normal daily loads?
2. Read Matthew 18:15-20. God wants us to grow from the loving confrontation we receive from others. Verse 15 says we must be willing to offer the truth in love to others who need to hear it at the risk of rejection, but with the hope of restoration. Why should we all want discipline and accountability in our lives? Do you want this?
3. Read Matthew 5:35-37. Many find it difficult to simply say "no" when it is best to do so, and tend to give reasons or excuses to justify their decisions. What do you think is behind people having a hard time saying "no" to others? Is it possible to get to a place where saying "no" can be free of guilt, obligation, or fear?
4. Read Colossians 3:8 and think of the way you live life and live in relationships. In what life situations do you tend to blame rather than fix the problem? Which of these things is it hardest for you to rid yourself of when you are seeking reconciliation? How might you change that?
5. Matthew 5:9 reminds us that God blesses those who are peacemakers. Reconciliation means to reestablish the relationship, while resolution means to resolve every issue. Do you tend to focus too much on resolution during conflict? Do you feel like, too often, you need resolution to reconcile? Why/why not?

**PRAYER FOR THIS WEEK: Bible Translation Around the World/Wycliffe**

Pray for Wycliffe Bible Translators and translators around the world as they seek to bring the life changing message of God's Word to everyone. May God protect them from oppression, persecution and fear as they work to expand His kingdom.