

Sailing

My wife and I used to rent a sailboat and take our friends out for a sail around the harbor. Occasionally, we'd venture out into the ocean and sail close along the coastline. One beautiful day we took a boat out and sailed down the coast towards San Diego. We finally turned around and headed North for the trip home, going along the picturesque coastline. We were eating snacks, having soft drinks, and visiting with our friends. The wind was blowing through the sails perfectly and we were moving forward through the water very nicely or so it seemed. Trying to be a good Skipper, I looked over and made a mental note of a large building on the shore. After some time, I again checked my landmark reference point on the shoreline only to discover, to my surprise, that we were not making any headway in relation to the shoreline at all.

Then I remembered the sailing club had warned us that the current down the coast in this area is about 2-3 knots and our boat was going through the water at about 2-3 knots and so we were actually standing still.

In the little world of our boat, we were having a wonderful time eating, drinking and visiting, but in reality we were going nowhere and indeed would never get home.

I guess that most of the people watching our progress from the shoreline that day would have thought to themselves, "Wouldn't it be fun to be out there enjoying the open sea." Another much smaller group consisted of former sailors who recognized what was happening. If we weren't so far from shore they would be calling out a warning like, "Change your course and tack out into the better winds offshore or start your engine or you'll never get home to port! Be ready to throw out your anchor if the wind dies so the current won't sweep you down the coast!"

The role of the church is to warn those who can't see the seriousness of the direction they are going. We on the shoreline of life need to be shouting out the appropriate warnings to prevent others from never reaching their eternal destination with their Heavenly Father.

GAL 6:1-5 Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, 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 he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself. Each one should test his own actions. Then he can take pride in himself, without comparing himself to somebody else, for each one should carry his own load.

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