

Carry Each Other's Burdens
Galatians 6:1-10, Leviticus 19:9-18
September 17, 2017

² Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. (Galatians 6:2)

1. I've seen people carrying each other's burdens in beautiful ways this week.

- **Water**
- **Neighbor helping neighbor**
 - Anita: Alex and Benjamin Strong
 - Pat Jepson
 - **Neighbor sweeping the street**
- **Freedom to be caring to strangers.**
- **Brochures**

Ephesians 4:32 ***Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.***

I Corinthians 12:26 ***If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.***

Matthew 7:12 ***So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.***

- **“God never gives us more than we can handle.”**
But I think He often gives us more than we can handle *alone!*
He never intended for us to handle life alone.

2. We fulfill the law of Christ when we share burdens.

- **Love fulfills the law.**

Galatians 5:14 ***For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”***

Romans 13:8-10 ***Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law. 9 The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery,” “You shall not murder,” “You shall not steal,” “You shall not covet,”^[a] and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”^[b] 10 Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.***

- Al Winn, “You will not”

- A new heart

Ezekiel 36:26-27 ***26 I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. 27 And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.***

3. Jesus Christ carried our burden.

I Peter 2:24 ***“He himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; “by his wounds you have been healed.”***

- Gospel

4. The real meaning of this text is deeper than taking down storm shutters or sharing water.
More spiritual.

- Look at the context.

Galatians 6:1 ***1 Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted. [2 Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. (Galatians 6:2)]***

- “Caught” means “trapped” here.
- So this verse really goes with verses like these:

James 5:19-20 *My brothers and sisters, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring that person back, ²⁰ remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of their way will save them from death and cover over a multitude of sins.*

Matthew 7:3-5 *“Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? ⁴ How can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? ⁵ You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.”*

- Note it doesn’t say to leave the speck in your brother’s eye, but that we first remove the plank from our own eyes.
- The assumption is that I want to live a godly life and you want to live a godly life, so we help each other.
- (Some people have stopped coming to church because I preach biblical ethics. But I do that to help people live the abundant life in Christ, not to condemn them.)
- So often we don’t try to restore the fallen. We don’t try to help those who struggle, We desert them!
- Or, we cover it up, like the nearby church that paid hush-money to the pastor’s mistress!
- Rorschach Ink Blot.
- The modern church is “caught” in sin in both ways.
 - Our interpretation of this verse **exposes** how stuck we are in judgementalism.
 - We really are **entangled** in that sanctimonious, competitive, self-righteous mind set.
- Do you have people who carry your burden with you?
 - I have Pat and a few colleagues.

Sometimes we need help living godly, Spirit-filled lives!

- “God never gives us more than we can handle.”
But I think He often gives us more than we can handle
alone!
He never intended for us to handle life alone.

5. It is in godly, Spirit-filled living that we find fulfillment.

Galatians 6:7-8 *Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. ⁸ Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. [Quality of life here and now.]*

Galatians 5:16-25 *So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever^[c] you want. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.*

¹⁹ The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; ²⁰ idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions ²¹ and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. ²⁴ Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

CONCL. So by all means care for one another in good, practical ways.

Live the “Golden rule.”

That does fulfill the law of Christ.

But let’s take it to the deeper, spiritual level too.

Find friends who are dedicated to living godly, Christ-like lives.

Find friends who want more than anything to live the abundant life in Christ Jesus.

Help them.

Let them help you.

If there are ways that I can help you, please let me know.

Let’s help each other live the abundant life in Christ Jesus.

That’s what the church is for! (A main reason)

[² Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. (Galatians 6:2)]

Galatians 6:1 is sort of a Rorschach ink blot for the state of the church. When it says, “If someone is caught in a sin ...” we interpret that to mean if someone is discovered, exposed. “Caught ya!” When really it means if anyone is trapped by a sin. KJV “overtaken.” Our proclivity toward the notion of exposing someone’s sin reveals the fact that we are really in sanctimonious

competition with one another. I'm a sinner, but I want to hide that from you. If you find out, you will condemn me, judge me. Why? Because it makes you feel superior, even if you're as sinful as I am. It deflects attention from your guilt when the light is shone upon my own. So we put on facades that falsely imply that we are not struggling.

However, when we interpret the text according to what it really means, it assumes that we are in cooperation. It assumes that you know I want to live a godly life, and I know you want to live a godly life, and we are committed to helping each other. Sometimes I get caught in sin, trapped, overcome. The wisest thing for me to do, the Christian thing is not to conceal that but to run to you for help. I'm caught! Like a fish on a hook. I need help getting free. I need someone who will gently restore me. I need someone to carry my burden with me. Likewise, when you get caught, trapped, hooked, you need help. My place is not to condemn you but restore you.

So the modern church is caught in sin in both ways. The sinfulness of our self-righteousness is exposed by this verse. It shows that we are trapped in a judgmental quagmire. We're keeping an eye on one another. Holding one another accountable. If you step out of line, I'll zap you if I "catch" you. No, my dear brother, my precious sister, you are already caught. You're entangled and ensnared and you know it. And my job as your brother in Christ, is to help you get free. Our job as brothers and sisters in Christ is to help one another get free.

Pat, Dean, Debbie, Hannah, Anita, Cleo, Carmen