

The One Another Life – A Gospel Community

Week 2 – Encourage One Another
(Galatians 6:1-5)

OPENING QUESTION

What do we do when someone beside us is carrying more than they can handle alone?

KEY VERSE

“Carry one another’s burdens; in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.” -Galatians 6:2

THE COMMANDS

1. Restore those who have fallen into sin with gentleness. (Gal. 6:1)

“Brothers and sisters, if someone is overtaken in any wrongdoing, you who are spiritual, restore such a person with a gentle spirit, watching out for yourselves so that you also won’t be tempted.”

What is true: Believers can be overtaken by sin, and when that happens, God’s goal is restoration. Paul does not minimize wrongdoing, but he also does not tell the church to shame, avoid, or discard the fallen believer. Spirit-led Christians are to move toward them with love, gentleness, humility, and watchfulness.

What to do: Restore the one caught in sin with gentleness. Move toward believers who have been overtaken by sin and moral failures with the goal of helping them return to faithful obedience to Christ and His Word. Tell them the truth about their sin, but do it with humility, remembering that you are also vulnerable to temptation.

2. When someone is burdened, help carry the weight. (Galatians 6:2)

“Carry one another’s burdens; in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.”

What is true: God never intended believers to carry every burden alone. Some weights become too heavy for one person to bear, and Spirit-led love moves us, as spiritual people, to help the burdened person and assist in carrying what is crushing them.

What to do: When someone is burdened, help carry the weight. Get close enough to know what others are carrying and help in concrete ways. Sometimes burden-bearing means listening, praying, providing, serving, confronting, encouraging, or simply staying beside someone through a difficult season.

3. While helping others, humbly carry your own responsibility. (Gal. 6:3-5)

“For if anyone considers himself to be something when he is nothing, he deceives himself. Let each person examine his own work, and then he can

take pride in himself alone, and not compare himself with someone else. For each person will have to carry his own load.”

What is true: Bearing one another’s burdens **does not erase personal responsibility**. Paul warns against pride, comparison, and the assumption that helping someone else makes us spiritually superior. Each believer remains accountable before God for the life and responsibilities God has given him.

What to do: Help carry what is crushing others without handing off the obedience, repentance, faithfulness, and responsibilities **God has entrusted to you**. Bear burdens with humility and examine your own life before comparing yourself with anyone else.

THE MAIN IDEA

Main Idea: Those who genuinely walk by the Spirit help bear the burdens of others with love while taking responsibility for their own lives before God.

LOOK TO CHRIST

Christ did more than come alongside us in our weakness. He carried the one burden no one else could carry for us: **the guilt and judgment of our sin**. Galatians has already told us that “*Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us*” (Gal. 3:13). At the cross, Jesus bore what we could never remove from ourselves and what no other person could remove for us. Thus, Christ’s burden-bearing is unique. We cannot save one another, atone for one another, or carry one another’s guilt before God. Christ alone has done that. But His grace creates a burden-bearing people. Those who have been shown mercy learn to show mercy. Those who have been restored learn to restore. Those whose greatest burden Christ has carried begin to look around and ask how they can help carry others' burdens.

APPLICATION

1. Who around me **is carrying something heavy right now**? Is there someone I need to move toward, rather than wait for them to ask for help?
2. Is there someone who has fallen into sin, who is not obedient to God’s Word, and therefore **needs to be encouraged and gently restored**?
3. Am I carrying a burden alone that God **intends His church to help me bear**? Do I need to ask a brother or sister to help me and pray for me?
4. Am I expecting others to carry responsibilities **God has given to me**? For example, a believer expects the church to keep her spiritually strong, but she neglects prayer, Scripture, repentance, and obedience in her own life. The church can help carry your burdens, but it cannot carry your obedience. Someone may say, ‘*Nobody checks on me, nobody encourages me, nobody helps me grow,*’ while making little effort to pray, read Scripture, gather with the church, repent of sin, or pursue faithfulness. Other believers have a responsibility toward us, but they cannot assume the personal responsibilities God has given *us*.