

How to Bear the Weaknesses of Others

Galatians 6:2-5

Ga. 5:13-15 For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. ¹⁴ For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁵ But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another.

Ga. 5:26-6:1 Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another. ¹ Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted.

Ga. 6:2-5 Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. ³ For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. ⁴ But let each one test his own work, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor. ⁵ For each will have to bear his own load.

I. Compensating for the Weaknesses of Those around Us

Ga. 6:2-5 Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. ³ For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. ⁴ But let each one test his own work, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor. ⁵ For each will have to bear his own load.

*In this context the reference suggests **burdens** that tempt a sinning believer to fall back into the trespass from which he has just been delivered. A persistent, oppressing temptation is one of the heaviest burdens a Christian can have. ... To be freed from a sin is not always to be freed from its temptation.*

(MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (1983). *Galatians* (p. 180). Chicago: Moody Press.)

Col 3:12-13 Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, ¹³ bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

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Jn 13:34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.

Jn 15:12-13 “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends

Ro 15:1-3 We who are strong have an obligation to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves.² Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to build him up.³ For Christ did not please himself, but as it is written, “The reproaches of those who reproached you fell on me.”

II. Don't Consider Yourself Great

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Mt 20:25-28 But Jesus called them to him and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them.²⁶ It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant,²⁷ and whoever would be first among you must be your slave,²⁸ even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Ga. 5:13-15 For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.¹⁴ For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”¹⁵ But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another.

III. Test Your Own Work

Ga. 6:2-5 Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.³ For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself.⁴ But let each one test his own work, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor.⁵ For each will have to bear his own load.

What Paul stresses here is personal responsibility. It is not for one Christian to assess or judge the ministry of another; each one is answerable to God for his own

(Bruce, F. F. (1982). [*The Epistle to the Galatians: a commentary on the Greek text*](#) (p. 262). Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans Pub. Co.)

It is on his own conduct and performance that each person should concentrate, not the conduct and performance of others; he is to engage in self-assessment, not in critical evaluation of another.

(Fung, R. Y. K. (1988). [*The Epistle to the Galatians*](#) (p. 290). Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.)

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Ga. 5:26 Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another..

2 Co 10:17-18 “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”¹⁸ For it is not the one who commends himself who is approved, but the one whom the Lord commends.

2 Co 5:9-10 So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him.¹⁰ For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

The attitude of the Gospel towards other's shortcomings

- Correct them only when you are filled with the fruit of the Spirit.
- Correct others in a spirit of meekness.
- Correct while guarding yourself so you don't react to them in the flesh.
- Deal with the shortcomings of others with love and patience, showing mercy and forgiveness in situations where they create inconvenience for you, remembering that you yourself constantly need the forgiveness of Jesus Christ.
- Don't think highly of yourself. Do not exalt yourself over those who have shortcomings. Be ready to condescend to them, helping your fellow men in their spiritual struggles.
- Remember that the true value of your ministry lies in the state of your heart as you help others in the process of spiritual growth, not in the progress of others in their spiritual struggles or the lack thereof.