

How to Become a Burden-Carrying Congregation

Galatians 6:1-5

Galatians 6:1-5 “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. 2 Carry one another’s burdens; in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. 3 For if anyone considers himself to be something when he is nothing, he deceives himself. 4 Let each person examine his own work, and then he can take pride in himself alone, and not compare himself with someone else. 5 For each person will have to carry his own load.”

Burden - 922 báros – “A weight both literal or internal that is hard to pick up or difficult to carry.”

Bible Reality #1 - In this life you will never be without burdens.

False Notion #1 - The more spiritual you are, the less burdens you have.

Bible Reality #2 - If you pretend you don’t carry burdens, you’re a hypocrite.

John 16:33 “I have told you these things so that in me you may have peace. You will have suffering in this world. Be courageous! I have conquered the world.”

2 Corinthians 5:4 “Indeed, we groan while we are in this tent, burdened as we are.”

2 Corinthians 7:5 “In fact, when we came into Macedonia, we had no rest. Instead, we were troubled in every way: conflicts on the outside, fears within.”

Bible Reality #3 – God did not make humans to bear their burdens alone.

2 Corinthians 7:6-7 “But God, who comforts the downcast, comforted us by the arrival of Titus, 7 and not only by his arrival but also by the comfort he received from you.”

False Notion #2 - Wait until your burden is unbearable before you ask someone to help you.

Bible Reality #4 – Each person is to carry their own load -V.5

Load - 5413 phortión – “properly, a burden which must be carried by the individual, i.e. as something personal and hence is not transferrable, i.e. it cannot “be shifted” to someone else.”

False Notion #3 – It’s someone else’s job to carry your load.

Bible Reality #5 God invites us to come to Him for help living with our loads and carrying our burdens.

Matthew 11:28 “Come to me, all of you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. **29** Take up my yoke and learn from me, because I am lowly and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. **30** For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

False Notion #4 – Important people don’t carry other people’s burdens – V.3

False Notion #5 – Important people don’t let other people carry their burdens – V.4

Galatians 5:13-15 “For you were called to be free, brothers and sisters; only don’t use this freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but serve one another through love. **14** For the whole law is fulfilled in one statement: Love your neighbor as yourself. **15** But if you bite and devour one another, watch out, or you will be consumed by one another.”

Jesus taught burden-bearing - **John 13:34-35** “I give you a new command: Love one another. Just as I have loved you, you are also to love one another. **35** By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

Jesus lived out burden-bearing – **Luke 7:47** “Therefore I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven; that’s why she loved much. But the one who is forgiven little, loves little.” **48** Then he said to her, “Your sins are forgiven.”

Bible Reality #6 – “Burden bearers get under the load first and then share the truth.”

Concluding Points

- 1) A healthy Christian is someone who learns to carry their own load by applying biblical Truth to their life.
- 2) They accept the reality that life has burdens.
- 3) A maturing Christians goes to God regularly for help with their load and burdens.
- 4) They also look to provide help by coming under the burdens of people around them.
- 5) Finally, a Christ follower is humble enough to share the weight of their burdens with other well-intentioned people.

Names for Nomination to the Search Committee

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