

Burden Bearing

Gal. 6:2,5

Introduction:

- A. All kinds of burdens in a Christian's life.
 - 1. Self-imposed.
 - a. Consequences of past wrong doing.
 - b. Acceptance of responsibility.
 - 2. Externally-imposed.
 - a. Common circumstances of life.
 - b. Forced upon us by fellow-man.
- B. Different kinds of burden's in our text.
 - 1. Must bear one another's - v. 2
 - 2. Must bear own. - v. 5
 - 3. Must do both! Used in different Senses.

Discussion:

I. We Must Bear One Another's Burden. (v. 2).

- A. Because others need our moral support.
 - 1. Those *overtaken* in a fault. (v. 1).
 - a. One "surprised" by sin - Various Lexicons.
 - b. He is crushed and discouraged.
 - c. Needs help of strong or spiritually mature. (cf. 1 Cor. 3).
 - d. Unlike the rebel who need sharper treatment. (cf. Tit. 1:13; 2 Cor. 13:10).
 - 2. Those weak in the faith and knowledge. (Rom. 14:1; 15:1; 1 Thess. 5:14).
 - 3. Those with various needs. (cf. Rom. 16:2; 1 Tim. 5:10; 2 Tim. 4:16).
- B. Because the tables could be turned - shoe could be on other foot.
 - 1. May later want another to bear our burden.
 - a. Rich man and Lazarus. (Luke 16:24-25)
 - b. Must show mercy to obtain mercy. (cf. Mt. 5:7; Jas. 2:13).
 - 2. Must not let pride deceive us into thinking otherwise. (v. 3).
- C. Because one must fulfill the law of Christ. (v. 2; cf. Jno. 13:34).

II. We Must Bear Our Own Burden. (v. 5).

- A. By showing Godly independence.
 - 1. There is an ungodly independence.
 - a. "I need nothing from you, nor do I owe you anything". (cf. 1 Cor. 12:21).
 - b. "I know my rights in Christ, I plan to exercise them regardless..." (cf. 1 Cor. 9:19ff).
 - 2. There is a godly independence.
 - a. "I must be judged by my own actions rather than another's".
 - b. "It makes little difference if actions better, worse, or same as another". (cf. v. 4 NIV).¹
- B. By accepting full responsibility for relationship with God.
 - 1. No one can be save for another. (cf. Rom. 9:1-3).
 - 2. No one can do God's will for another.
 - a. First Principles.
 - b. Godly living.
 - 3. No one can be judged for another. (cf. 2 Cor. 5:10).
 - 4. No one can be God or conscience of another. (cf. Rom. 14:4,14,23).

Conclusion:

- A. We want to help anyone, to extent we can, bear any burden he has.
- B. We must not want to add any unnecessary burdens to another. (cf. Acts 15:28; Rev. 2:14).
- C. But, in the final analysis he must bear his own burden before God.

¹ "Each man should test his own actions. Then he can take pride in himself, without comparing himself to someone else,"