

Bear ye one another's burdens

by
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Galatians 6:2 says, in part, ***“Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.”***

In particular ways we are to bear one another's burdens. This type of burden, in which may be partially borne by another, is defined in verse 1 as a "fault". This fault may occasionally overtake you, which means it will suddenly and unexpectedly seize you. How quick is your temper? How quick are you to despair? When the storms blow are you suddenly faithless? How about envy, or sloth or lust? You have a burden that you carry that can be partially carried by someone in the church. Do you carry this burden alone in your heart? If you ask me, there is too much secrecy in people's lives these days. We don't share the burdens of our hearts with those that can help. I suppose we are embarrassed of our personal burdens and don't want others to see our spiritual warts. Years ago when I worked for a roofer with a couple of my friends, we would have contests to see how many bundles of shingles we could carry up the ladder and onto the roof. If you've ever carried shingles you know that one bundle is pretty heavy, two bundles is extremely heavy and if you could carry three or more bundles of shingles up the ladder you were pretty much a stud in our circle. Well, imagine carrying around three bundles of shingles everywhere you go; bearing the spiritual weight of your faults. Did you know that the mercy of Jesus Christ is worked out in the fact that you have your brothers and sisters in the church to help you along life's path? Someone you know could take a bundle of those shingles and bear your burden somewhat.

Now that I've encouraged you to share your burdens with those around you, let's give that idea a bit of balance. Our text says that your fellow burden-bearer is to be someone that is "spiritual". I Co. 3:1 will teach us that spiritual people are not babes in Christ. This is a special person that has special qualities of compassion and ministry. Some of the Lord's people couldn't keep the personal information of others private if their life depended on it. The Bible calls these people talebearers and they are not to be trusted with personal burdens. They are just as much children of God as you, only they have the fault of telling everything they know. Therefore, in whom you confide is totally your choice and it should be a proper person. Prayerfully consider who you know in this way, and let them bear part of your burdens. Perhaps they even have a burden that could be eased by you. James 5:16 says ***“Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much”***.