

"BEAR YE ONE ANOTHER'S BURDENS" AND MORE

INTRODUCTION - this sermon is anchored in definitions for meaning and application.

1. (Gal. 6:2) "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ"

"Bear" - to support or prop up; shore up; keep from falling. (Acts 20:35; 1 Thess. 5:14)

Types of burdens: 1) (Gal. 6:2) a load another carries that may be lightened by us.

2) (Ga. 6:5) "every man shall bear his own burden" is individual responsibility.

3) (1 Peter 5:7) "Cast all your care on him; for he cares for you" means that some burdens are too heavy for us. (see Phil. 4:6-7 and Isa. 53:4-5)

"so fulfill the law of Christ" - more than a good idea, it's the law.

2. (Eph. 4:1-3) "... forbearing one another in love ..."

"Forbear" - to live with it; to wait; to refrain from doing something.

This "walk" and "vocation" of "forbearance" looks like this:

"Lowliness" - humbleness of life knowing that we all make mistakes.

"Meekness" - it's not weakness; it is authority and power under control.

"Longsuffering" - no time frame is given for our patience running out.

"Forbearing one another in love" - love is the foundation for our actions.

(v3) "giving diligence to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."

We are to try hard, peaceably, to do what the Spirit has already delivered for unity.

3. (Eph. 4:30-32) "... and be ye kind one to another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another ..."

Some actions by us will "grieve the Holy Spirit" and threaten harmony in the congregation.

"Bitterness" - resentment; distasteful attitude; (James 3:11, v14).

"Anger" - smoldering bitterness that kindles into flame.

"Wrath" - hot anger; like a roaring furnace.

"Clamor" - always yelling at others; full of strife and contentions; disruptive.

"Evil speaking" - railing; slander; to blaspheme God or man.

"All malice" - to take delight in hurting others; splitting the harmony of the body.

Some actions that reflect the character of Christ (opposites of the above).

"And be ye kind one to another" - be of service; gracious; considerate.

"Tender-hearted" - softness and gentleness in relationships.

"Forgive one another" - to set free; remission; dismiss.

"Even as ..." - here's the model.