

Sunday, January 6, 2019—Body Building: Bearing One Another's Burdens

Introduction

- I Timothy 4:7-8—this series has been about a particular kind of exercise, spiritual exercise. Spiritual exercise that is designed to build a spiritual body not a physical one. Our goal is to learn how to flex our spiritual muscles with the goal of building up the body of Christ.
- Philippians 2:12—this type of exercise is going to require working out and spiritual discipline. Our goal is to take the life of Christ that is in us and work it out through us or manifest it in our mortal flesh.
- Ephesians 4:16—the body of Christ was designed to edify itself. The focus of our current series has been on the self-edifying nature of the body of Christ. How does the body edify itself?
- Romans 12:5—in our first study in this series, I introduced you to a concept that I am calling the one-anothering principle. The phrase “one of another” is a translation of a plural pronoun which means: “reciprocally” or “mutually.”
 - Reciprocal—"Mutual; done by each to the other" (Webster's 1828)
 - Reciprocally—"Mutually; interchangeably; in such a manner that each affects the other and is equally affected by it." (Webster's 1828)
- Thus far we have observed the following one-anotherings:
 - Kindly affectioned one to another (Rom. 12:10)
 - Preferring one another (Rom. 12:10)
 - Not judge one another (Rom. 14:13)
 - Likeminded one toward another (Rom. 15:5)
 - Receive ye one another (Rom. 15:7)
 - Admonish one another (Rom. 15:14)
 - Salute one another with a holy kiss (Rom. 16:16)
 - Same care one for another (I Cor. 12:25)
 - By love serve one another (Gal. 4:14)

- **Should not** be biting, devouring, and consuming one another (Gal. 5:15)
- **Should not** be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, or envying one another (Gal. 5:26)
- There are two triads of fleshly behavior or ways that believers **should not** be treating one another identified in Galatians 5.
 - Galatians 5:15—biting, devouring, and consuming one another
 - Galatians 5:26—desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, and envying one another
- These fleshly behaviors are contrasted in the context by Paul’s instructions to “by love serve one another” and walk in the Spirit thereby manifesting the fruit of the Spirit.
 - Galatians 5:13—“but by love serve one another”
 - Galatians 5:22—the first fruit of the of the Spirit is love.
- Only the Spirit of God working in the believer is going to cause that believer to serve the interests of someone else by love.
- I Corinthians 13:4-5—read these verses in light of what we have been studying in Gal. 5:26. Walking in charity, the more excellent way, is the remedy for envy, vain glory, and provocation as well as cannibalizing and consuming another saints.
- Ephesians 4:16—love edifies.

Bear Ye One Another’s Burdens

- Galatians 6:2—contains Paul’s next one-another statement. In this verse Paul instructs the Galatians to “bear ye one another’s burdens.” The word translated “bear” means to lift, literally or figuratively (endure, declare, sustain, receive, etc.):—bear, carry, take up.
 - Mark 14:13—“bearing a pitcher of water”
 - Luke 10:4—“carry neither”
 - John 19:17—“bearing his cross”
- Galatians 6:2—the verb translated “bear ye” is a present active imperative which means that Paul is commanding the Galatians and by extension us to actively bear each other’s burdens in the present. “Burdens” is a reference to heaviness, weight, or trouble. Noah Webster’s *American*

Dictionary of the English Language offers the following definition for the English noun “burden:”

- That which is borne or carried; a load. Hence, **2.** That which is borne with labor or difficulty; that which is grievous, wearisome or oppressive.
- Galatians 6:1—given the immediate context, it makes sense that Paul would instruct believers to carry each other’s burdens in verse 2. In verse 1, Paul talks about how to handle a brother who has been “overtaken in a fault.” Such a brother is to be dealt with in the spirit of meekness, considering one’s self, lest they also be overtaken in the same fault.
- Galatians 6:2—in other words, believers are to be helping one another bear these burdens not harshly judging or excoriating them for their missteps.
 - I Corinthians 12:25-27
 - Romans 12:5
- Galatians 6:2—when believers bear one another’s burdens they “fulfill the law of Christ.” This statement harkens back to what Paul said in chapter 5.
 - Galatians 5:13-14—believers were not given liberty under grace so that we could sow to the flesh. Rather, we were given liberty under grace so that we can “by love serve one another.”
 - *Motivator*—“love”—believers are to be serving each by “by love.” Our natural programming however is to serve ourselves and our own interests. How can we learn to serve others by love?
 - I Thessalonians 4:9-10—if we allow God almighty will teach us how to love one another.
 - *Action*—“serve”—the verb “serve” is a present active imperative in other words it is a command. The word translated as “serve” in verse 13 is elsewhere translated “bondage” in Gal. 4:8 (“service”), 9, 25. Instead of being in bondage and serving the law, Paul wanted the Galatians to use their liberty to serve one another.
 - *Target*—“one another”
 - Ephesians 4:16
 - Galatians 5:14—Paul’s statement here means that the basis for the whole law can be summed up in the word love. Under the law if Israel had perfectly kept God’s

precepts, she would have done what love dictated. If the Galatians who were so worried about keeping the law would use their liberty to “by love serve one another” they would actually be fulfilling what the law required, namely to “love thy neighbor as thyself.”

- Leviticus 19:18
 - Matthew 22:37-40—if mankind had perfectly loved God and his neighbor there would have been no need for the Mosaic Law in the first place.
 - Romans 13:8-10—the liberty of grace gives believers the spiritual ability to fulfill the law.
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- Galatians 6:2—when believers serve one another by love by bear one another’s burdens they fulfill the law of Christ. Paul’s command that believers “bear one another’s burdens” does not alleviate the individual believer’s responsibility and accountability before God for their thoughts, attitudes, and actions.
 - Galatians 6:3-5
 - Romans 14:10-12
 - II Corinthians 5:10
 - Galatians 6:2—while believers are ultimately responsible for themselves before God, the body of Christ is edified and built up when believers help to “bear one another’s burdens” and thereby “fulfill the law of Christ.”