

Daily Devotional, April 1, 2020

“Bear One Another's Burdens” (Galatians 6:2, NKJV)

“Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ” (Galatians 6:2).

New Testament believers are not under the Law of Moses. **“For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes”** (Romans 10:4). But Christians are called to a higher standard, **“the law of Christ.”** This higher standard intensifies many of the moral commands found in the Old Testament. Notably, we find examples of this in the Sermon on the Mount (Cf. Matthew 5:20-48). Our text today correlates with the Lord's command to go the extra mile for others, even if they are not our favorite people (Cf. Matthew 5:41-44).

We are called to **“bear one another's burdens.”** Which of you, seeing a neighbor that struggles physically trying to get groceries out of the trunk, would not offer a helping hand? This scenario is an obvious Christian behavior, but there are other scenarios that we may not be as intentionally aware of. We can **“bear one another's burdens”** socially, by extending kindness to those who are alone. Maybe make a phone call, send an email, or send a card, or a bouquet of flowers. This will cost us some time (and maybe a few dollars, which some of us can well afford) to be sure, but God gave us all the gift of time, and expects us to redeem it, to use it for His Glory. We can **“bear one another's burdens”** emotionally by offering **both** (not either/or) listening ears and heartfelt prayers. Finally, we can **“bear one another's burdens”** spiritually. Do you know anyone burdened down by the weight of sin, yet without remedy? Are any of your family or friends struggling with addiction? Offer them prayer and other practical supports or referrals to help them. Bring everyone you can to Jesus, who says, **“Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light”** (Matthew 11:28-30). Let us **“bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.”** But as we do, let us always remember that it is Jesus Christ, God the Son, who bore our sins at the cross, and bears our burdens still. Whatever you do, and however much effort you expend, without Him, **“you can do nothing”** (John 15:5). Without Christ, you will be overwhelmed, but with Him, all the burdens of the world can be carried all at once on His broad divine shoulders. **“Bear one another's burdens”**, that is what Jesus modeled on earth, and what He does! Are you **“casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you”** (1 Peter 5:7)?