

## HOW TO LOVE

### Fault-bearing

- I. **Other people's "faults," is one of the biggest things that we've allowed to stand in our way of loving them and it's been one of the biggest hindrances to us loving other people**
  - A. What's happened is we saw what we perceived to be a fault and then we allowed what we saw about them to affect our love for them
  - B. \*The problem with people is they are like you: They are imperfect, they have faults, they have flesh, they say wrong things sometimes, they do wrong things sometimes, they have moments – JUST LIKE YOU
  - C. \*When it comes to loving people you have to know what to do with their faults – What do I do with other peoples faults?
- II. **Galatians 6:1-2**
  - A. Are people going to deviate from the truth? Are believers going to deviate from the word and miss it and fall? Or is everybody going to be perfect all the time? People are imperfect and you're going to see their imperfections and when you do what should you do?
    1. **Fault**-A lapse or deviation from the truth and uprightness (A deviation from the Word of God); False step, blunder, a misdeed, trespass, a slip, offence, sin, fault, fall
      - a. **Burdens** (AMP)-Troublesome moral FAULTS
    2. These faults, these deviations from the Word are burdens that weigh people down (whether they know it's weighing them down or not)
      - a. **Burdens**-Depress, weigh down, being pressed down by a crushing weight, heavy, weighty, grievous; a weight that is heavy or crushing; a heavy load that causes a person to feel that his burdened or weighed down
      - b. Hebrews 12:1-These faults, these "sins" weigh people down and hinder them from running their race
  - B. We are to restore the person that's in a fault and bear one another's burdens
    1. **Restore**-Mend, repair; They are broken in some way, "incomplete" in some way, something is missing and you are to help them get fixed, be complete, be what they ought to be
    2. **Bear**-To bear another's burdens is to pick it up with your hands and carry it and even though it may be burdensome you are to endure and uphold that person and sustain them and support them and do it in a calm and understanding way
      - a. To bear, carry-Matthew 3:11-Whose shoes I am not worthy to bear; Luke 7:14-They that bare him stood still (In reference to carrying a casket); Mark 14:13-Bearing a pitcher of water; Acts 3:2-A certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried
      - b. To take up with the hands-John 10:31-The Jews took up stones again to stone him

- c. To carry on one's person-Luke 10:4-Carry neither purse, nor scrip, nor shoes
- d. To bear away, to carry off-Matthew 8:17-He bare our sicknesses (Take away or remove by curing)
- e. To put upon one's self (something to be carried); to bear what is burdensome-John 19:17-  
*Bearing his cross went forth to place of a skull*
- f. To bear, to endure-Matthew 20:12-You have made them equal unto us, which have borne the burden and heat of the day
  - 1) Acts 15:10-Now therefore why tempt ye God, to put a yoke upon the neck of the disciples, which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear
- g. To Sustain, Uphold, Support-Romans 11:18-You bear not the root, but the root thee
- h. To be equal to understanding a matter and receiving it calmly-John 16:12-I have yet many things to say to you but you cannot bear them

C. Love restores the person found in fault and bears the burdens of others (One of the major ways you love people is you bear their burdens)

1. The law of Christ is fulfilled when you bear another persons burdens or faults; The law of Christ is the law of love
  - a. I don't have the law written on tablets, I got the love of God shed abroad in my heart and written on my heart and it exerts restraint over me and I am governed by that law-2 Corinthians 5:14, Romans 5:5
2. 1 Corinthians 13:7-Love bears all things, endures all things, you can't break me, you can't change me, no matter what comes
  - a. AMP-Love bears up under anything and everything that comes and it endures everything without weakening
3. When a fellow believer is under a crushing weight it is our responsibility to help bear his burden; Each believer should feel some level of responsibility for the spiritual welfare of his fellow-saints and to some extent the sinner-1 Corinthians 12:26
  - a. When someone is burdened by crushing cares and faults, **crawl up under that burden** and help that person carry it
  - b. You should do it in a willing, helpful, sympathetic way
  - c. Sympathize, show mercy and love, and do not brow-beat a fallen brother, and so fulfill the law of Christ
4. **It's always easier to condemn rather than to assist, to push a person down than to lift him up**

**III. Bear their burdens and faults NOT find them, NOT talk about the, NOT judge them for having them, NOT get mad because they have them**

A. You bear other peoples burdens with your faith in God; You use your faith in God to help them and aid them in overcoming whatever their fault or burden may be

1. **You're not carrying their burden in the sense of now it's weighing you down; you're carrying in the sense of you're going to take part and be responsible for helping them get free by exercising your faith in God help them**
    - a. You don't carry their burden anymore than you carry your own; you cast yours on the Lord, you cast theirs on the Lord
    - b. If you don't pick up their faults and burdens then you have no way of casting the care of it upon
    - c. You have to pick it up first and you have to "care" to even pick it up
  2. **Faith in God is in one of it's purest forms when it's being used to help your brother**
    - a. Being critical goes crosswise to that because when you speak critical words about that person you are not using your faith to help them and bear their faults, you are actually using your faith to reinforce their fault and burden and keep it in their life
    - b. **It's impossible to bear somebody's fault if you're being critical of them because they have it so rather than being critical of them because they have it, I'm going to use my faith to help them overcome it**
- B. People are going to miss it and you're going to see it, you're going to see peoples faults and when you do there's going to be a pull, a temptation to judge them, to be critical of them, to talk negative about them
1. *MSG-If someone falls into sin, forgivingly restore him, saving your critical comments for yourself. You might need forgiveness before the days out. Stoop down and reach out to those who are oppressed. Share their burdens and so complete Christ's law.*
    - a. If you're going to judge somebody, judge yourself
  2. *CEV-You obey the law of Christ when you offer each other a helping hand*
    - a. **What you said, is that going to help them or hurt them?**
    - b. **It is easy to fall in the trap of talking bad about people and being critical of them, but that's not helping them**
- C. You which are spiritual or non-carnal-1 Corinthians 3:1-3
1. A sign that you're carnal is that rather than restoring people and bearing their faults you judge, condemn and cast them down
    - a. Carnal people can't restore others, can't bear the fault of others
    - b. **Carnality looks at people and their faults and judges and cast them down, but a spiritual person sees another persons faults and seeks God for how they can use their faith and help that person out of that fault**
  2. Romans 8:6-When you're fault finding and judging and condemning it gives way to the death force, but when you're spiritually minded and fault-bearing it gives way to live and peace (zoe-life and prosperity)

3. **If you don't go fault seeking, you want be fault finding**

- D. This fault bearing should be done in a hard, harsh, sharp manner, but rather with the spirit of meekness-  
Ephesians 6:4
1. Meekness is required in the walk of love; you can't be strong in your love walk and weak in meekness
    - a. Colossians 3:13, Ephesians 4:2-We got three witnesses that reveal to us the importance of meekness in regards to walking in love
    2. **Meekness**-The disposition to be gentle, kind, indulgent, even balanced in tempers and passions, and patient in suffering; Mildness of disposition, gentleness of spirit; Softness of temper; Mild of temper; Soft; Gentle; Not easily provoked or irritated; Yielding; Give to forbearance under injuries
      - a. **Gentle**-Mild, meek; soft; bland; not rough, harsh or severe; as a gentle nature, temper or disposition; a gentle manner, a gentle address; Tame; peaceable; not wild, soothing; treating with mildness; not violent; Softness of manners; Mildness of temper; Sweetness of disposition; Kindness, benevolence
      - b. **Mildness**-Softness, Tenderness, Mercy; Clemency; The quality that affects the senses pleasantly; Not violent, Gently and pleasantly, Kind, Compassionate, Merciful, Not severe or cruel; Not fierce, rough or angry; Not fierce, not stern, not frowning; Not sharp, tart, sour, or bitter; Moderately sweet or pleasant to the taste; Calm, tranquil
  3. *ERV-Brothers and sisters, someone in your group might do something wrong. You who are following the Spirit should go to the one who is sinning. Help make that person right again, and do it in a gentle way. But be careful, because you might be tempted to sin too. <sup>2</sup> Help each other with your troubles.*
- E. Considering yourself-Considering yourself and how you've missed it and how you lapsed from the Word at times
1. *TLB-If a Christian is overcome by some sin, you who are godly should gently and humbly help him back onto the right path, remembering that next time it might be one of you who is in the wrong. Share each others' troubles and problems and so obey out Lord's command*

**IV. One reason people don't bear one another's burdens is they think too much of themselves-Galatians 6:1,3**

- A. This idea that you are somehow superior to other people will make you unwilling bear the burden of another person
1. *Galatians 6:3 AMP-For if any person thinks himself to be somebody [too important to condescend to shoulder another's load] when he is nobody [of superiority except in his own estimation], he deceives and deludes and cheats himself*

2. **It's this idea that I'd never do something like that and how dumb can they be and when you talk like that and think like that the insulation is that you wouldn't do what they did because you wouldn't you are somehow superior to them**
- B. When you think your superior you deceive yourself; when you think you're something superior and you're not you're deceiving yourself
1. Pride always deals in fantasy, lies, untruths, non-reality
    - a. Obadiah 3-The pride of your heart deceives you
    - b. Jeremiah 49:16-Your terribleness has deceived you and the pride of your heart
  2. Humility always deals in reality, in truth-2 Corinthians 12:6
    - a. *Voice-My spiritual brothers and sisters, if one of our faithful has fallen into a trap and is snared by sin, don't stand idle and watch his demise. Gently restore him, being careful not to step into your own snare. <sup>2</sup> Shoulder each other's burdens, and then you will live as the law of the Anointed teaches us. Don't take this opportunity to think that you are better than those who slip because you aren't. Then you become the fool and deceive yourself.*
- C. When it comes bearing another's burdens you need to humble yourself and deal in reality
1. **When you are judging people and being hard on them and being critical, and giving them no mercy you're acting like you've never done anything like that**
    - a. Humility deals in reality and the reality is you've done stuff just like that and worse than that; Be real; you've been where they've been, you've acted like they've acted, you've missed it like they've missed it; I'd never do anything like that – You've done stuff just like that and worse
    - b. Now look you're the righteousness of God in Christ and a Son of the most high, but don't act like you haven't been where they've been and done stuff like they've done
  2. The reality is you've had faults just like that if not worse and still have some and you're not superior to that person, you're not better than them, but in a lot of ways you're just like them and if you did get free God is the one who set you free and had it not been for him you'd still be in the same place they're in right now
- D. If you want to carefully scrutinize and examine someone then do it to yourself not other people
1. Examine yourself, judge yourself, ask the Lord to help you see your own faults and make the changes you need to make and then you can have something to rejoice about
  2. NOT IN ANOTHER-Your rejoicing shouldn't be in the fact that you are "superior" to your fallen brother
    - a. He's boasting and feeling superior b/c he's comparing himself with his fallen brother and it increases self-value in his own eyes
    - b. He's needs to prove is own work not compare himself to his brother and prove it in regards to the law of Christ rather than doing it by comparing himself with others

- c. If you are as spiritual as you think you are then prove it by the work of bearing another's burdens and fulfilling the law of Christ

## V. Romans 15:1

- A. If you're so strong then you should be bearing the infirmities of the weak
  1. Strength is for service, for helping others
  2. Romans 15:1 (MSG)-Those of us who are strong and able in the faith need to step in and lend a hand to those who falter, and not just do what is most convenient for us. **Strength is for service**, not status. Each one of us needs to **look after the good of the people around us**, asking ourselves, **"How can I help?"** <sup>3-6</sup> That's exactly what Jesus did. He didn't make it easy for himself by avoiding people's troubles, but waded right in and helped out. "I took on the troubles of the troubled," is the way Scripture puts it. Even if it was written in Scripture long ago, you can be sure it's written for us. God wants the combination of his steady, constant calling and warm, personal counsel in Scripture to come to characterize us, keeping us alert for whatever he will do next. May our dependably steady and warmly personal God develop maturity in you so that you get along with each other as well as Jesus gets along with us all. Then we'll be a choir—not our voices only, but our very lives singing in harmony in a stunning anthem to the God and Father of our Master Jesus!
- B. The fact that you are not bearing the infirmities of the weak should reveal to you that you are not as strong as you may of thought
  1. What major sign and token and evidence that you are strong is that you bear the infirmities of the weak
- C. You don't bear the weaknesses of others for self-gratification
  1. You find fault with them and talk about their faults with others and judge them and be critical for self-gratification
- D. We are striving for mutual harmony and full sympathy (verse 5 amplified)

**Romans 14**-Welcome with open arms fellow believers who don't see things the way you do. And don't jump all over them every time they do or say something you don't agree with—even when it seems that they are strong on opinions but weak in the faith department. Remember, they have their own history to deal with. Treat them gently.<sup>2-4</sup> For instance, a person who has been around for a while might well be convinced that he can eat anything on the table, while another, with a different background, might assume he should only be a vegetarian and eat accordingly. But since both are guests at Christ's table, wouldn't it be terribly rude if they fell to criticizing what the other ate or didn't eat? God, after all, invited them both to the table. Do you have any business crossing people off the guest list or interfering with God's welcome? If there are corrections to be made or manners to be learned, God can handle that without your help.<sup>5</sup> Or, say, one person thinks that some days should be set aside as holy and another thinks that each day is pretty much like any other. There

are good reasons either way. So, each person is free to follow the convictions of conscience.<sup>6-9</sup> What's important in all this is that if you keep a holy day, keep it for God's sake; if you eat meat, eat it to the glory of God and thank God for prime rib; if you're a vegetarian, eat vegetables to the glory of God and thank God for broccoli. None of us are permitted to insist on our own way in these matters. It's God we are answerable to—all the way from life to death and everything in between—not each other. That's why Jesus lived and died and then lived again: so that he could be our Master across the entire range of life and death, and free us from the petty tyrannies of each other.<sup>10-12</sup> So where does that leave you when you criticize a brother? And where does that leave you when you condescend to a sister? I'd say it leaves you looking pretty silly—or worse. Eventually, we're all going to end up kneeling side by side in the place of judgment, facing God. Your critical and condescending ways aren't going to improve your position there one bit. Read it for yourself in Scripture: "As I live and breathe," God says, "every knee will bow before me; Every tongue will tell the honest truth that I and only I am God." So tend to your knitting. You've got your hands full just taking care of your own life before God.<sup>13-14</sup> Forget about deciding what's right for each other. Here's what you need to be concerned about: that you don't get in the way of someone else, making life more difficult than it already is. I'm convinced—Jesus convinced me!—that everything as it is in itself is holy. We, of course, by the way we treat it or talk about it, can contaminate it.<sup>15-16</sup> If you confuse others by making a big issue over what they eat or don't eat, you're no longer a companion with them in love, are you? These, remember, are persons for whom Christ died. Would you risk sending them to hell over an item in their diet? Don't you dare let a piece of God-blessed food become an occasion of soul-poisoning!<sup>17-18</sup> God's kingdom isn't a matter of what you put in your stomach, for goodness' sake. It's what God does with your life as he sets it right, puts it together, and completes it with joy. Your task is to single-mindedly serve Christ. Do that and you'll kill two birds with one stone: pleasing the God above you and proving your worth to the people around you.<sup>19-21</sup> So let's agree to use all our energy in getting along with each other. Help others with encouraging words; don't drag them down by finding fault. You're certainly not going to permit an argument over what is served or not served at supper to wreck God's work among you, are you? I said it before and I'll say it again: All food is good, but it can turn bad if you use it badly, if you use it to trip others up and send them sprawling. When you sit down to a meal, your primary concern should not be to feed your own face but to share the life of Jesus. So be sensitive and courteous to the others who are eating. Don't eat or say or do things that might interfere with the free exchange of love.<sup>22-23</sup> Cultivate your own relationship with God, but don't impose it on others. You're fortunate if your behavior and your belief are coherent. But if you're not sure, if you notice that you are acting in ways inconsistent with what you believe—some days trying to impose your opinions on others, other days just trying to please them—then you know that you're out of line. If the way you live isn't consistent with what you believe, then it's wrong.