

[Special Series: Church Priesthood Ministry]

BEARING ONE ANOTHER'S BURDENS

We are currently studying a special series on Church Priesthood Ministry. All of these Church Priesthood Ministry lessons come from Paul's use of the present imperative (command) taken from Galatians Chapter Six.

(Gal.6:1)	Restore	(katartizo)	Restoring trespass believers in the spirit of gentleness.
(Gal.6:2)	Bear	(bastazo)	Bearing one another's burdens in the love of Christ.
(Gal.6:4)	Examine	(dokimazo)	Examining one's priesthood regarding boasting in the Lord.
(Gal.6:6)	Sharing	(koinoneo)	Mutual sharing of all of God's goodness.
(Gal.6:7-10)	Deceived	(me planaō)	Don't be deceived, the Believer will reap what he sows.

In our last study we covered the first command given to those spiritual priests of the local church regarding their Spiritual Restoration Ministry to carnal believers. (Gal.6:1)

This lesson will study four aspects of bearing one another's Burdens Ministry.

1. Paul issued a second New Covenant (NC) Directive Will to spiritually mature believers regarding their church priesthood ministry in (Gal.6:2).

(Gal.6:2) "Bearing (**bastazo/ p.a.impv.2pl**) one another's (allelon) [The Church Age Believer (CAB)] burdens (ta baros) [a heavy weight], and thus fulfill (anapleroo/ f.a.ind.2pl) the law of Christ (ton nomos tou Christos)."

Bastazo refers to carrying something burdensome. **Bastazo** was used with Jesus bearing His own cross to Golgotha.

(John 19:17) "They took Jesus, therefore, and He went out, bearing (bastazo) His own cross, to the place called the Place of a Skull, which is called in Hebrew, Golgotha." (100 lb. crossbeam)

The concept of bearing someone's burden was used with Simon of Cyrene. "They pressed into service a passer-by coming from the country, Simon of Cyrene (father of Alexander and Rufus), to bear (airo) [A different Greek word for "to lift up"] His cross." (Mark 15:21) [A pilgrim for Passover from N. Africa]

2. In this church priesthood ministry of bearing another believer's burden, the burden has become too heavy and burdensome and stressful for the believer to carry any more or any further.

The burden may be due to:

- The immaturity of a weaker believer (Rom.14-15)
- Betrayal (Luke 22:31-34)
- Undeserved Suffering (James 5:9-11)
- Divine Discipline (2 Cor.2:7-8)
- Hurt feelings (Phil.4:2-3)
- Marital problems (1 Pet.3:1-9).

Paul exercised his church priesthood ministry to Onesimus and to Philemon and to the church in Colossi by letter, while a prisoner in Rome (Philemon 1-2, 9-18, 23; Acts 28:16-31).

Paul exercised his ambassadorship to Onesimus, who was saved, during this imprisonment (Phile.10-13).

3. Grammatically, Paul had options with the Greek verb (mood), but he was inspired by God to make bastazo, the verb, an imperative – a command. (p.a.impv.2pl)

The imperative eliminated any and all excuses for not “bearing one another’s burdens.” We are no longer able to ignore, look the other way, and pass it off to someone else or to say, “I’ve got my own problems,” or “I’m just too busy,” or “I wouldn’t know how to do it.”

All spiritually mature believers are included in (2nd person plural) command to “Bear one another’s Burdens.” It is a New Covenant directive / commandment. If we do not do it, it is sin.

(James 4:17) “Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to do and does not do it, to him it is sin.”
(Rom.14:23)

Those who are weary and heavy burdened; are instructed to “come to Jesus Christ” and find rest for your souls (Matt.11:28-30).

(Ps.68:19) “Blessed be the Lord, Who daily bears our burden, the God Who is our salvation. Selah (pause of change in musical accompaniment)” (NASB)

Amplified Bible: “Blessed be the Lord, Who bears our burdens and carries us day by day, even the God Who is our salvation! Selah [pause, and calmly think of that].”

(1 Pet.5:7) “Casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.”

4. Paul explained that the love of God was the motivational factor for bearing one another’s Burdens. “Bear one another’s burdens, and thus fulfill the law of Christ.” (Gal.6:2)

The Law of Christ:

(John 13:34-35) “A new commandment I give to you, that **you love one another, even as I have loved you**, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 15:12; 1 John 2:7; 3:11, 23-24; 2 John 5-6) (peripateo)

(1 John 3:16) “**We know love by this**, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.”

(1 Pet.1:22) “Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a **sincere love** of brethren, **ferverly love one another from the heart.**”

POINT: Note the effect of bearing one another’s Burdens in our church priesthood ministry:

(1 Pet.4:8) “Above all, **keep fervent** (ektenes) [to stretch out] **in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins.**” (John 13:34-35; Rom.5:8).

Amplified Bible: “Above all things have intense and unfailing love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins [forgives and disregards the offense of others]. (Prov.10:12) (1 Pet.4:8).