

# LIFE TOGETHER: The One Another's of Scripture

"Bear With One Another" (Colossians 3:9-15; Galatians 6:1-2)

\*Nehemiah in spring:

Values/May *Life-Together*/June Titus/July *The Mission Heart of God*/Aug. Romans/Sept.  
(Who we are) (How do apply Values=comm.) (Godly Leadership) (How do we relate to lost world) (Unity n God's Righteousness)

What do we DO in comm.? **Life Together: the One Another's of Scripture: 1) Love One another**  
2) **Serve One another . . . and specifically...**

3) **Bear With one another:**(Both in personal difference OR with others' burdens & personal hurts)

"Bear with" = **Holding each other up under the strain of life:** = 2 aspects of "bear" in Scripture

A. Holding back yourself/attitude w/ people who are different than you (gracious toward them)

B. Holding others' burdens, taking them on your shoulder for a season as you help them lay those burdens at the cross of Christ **i.e. ever been asked to help someone move a fridge? Piano?**

= Neither of these are natural or instinct actions: These are spiritual/spirit-filled actions: **Love**

\*Bearing with one another is **evidence** that you have been spiritually transformed by Christ:

**\*If you are mowing; later going on a date; to a musical Broadway show; to an awards ceremony – you take off your sweaty mowing clothes and shower, put on nice, clean, "dress" clothes.**

-In Christ, in Union with Him, we take off the old sinful, selfish, corrupt, world-pleasing ways and we **put on** holiness, Christ-likeness, and are filled with His Spirit. So, how we think, how we act, what we say, our motivation as believers in UNION with Jesus – should look different!!

**READ Colossians 3:9-15** - How does our life look different in Christ? What has changed?

"Do not lie to one another, since you stripped off the old self [person] with its *evil practices*,<sup>10</sup> and have put on the new self, which is being renewed [renovated] to a **true** knowledge according to the image of the One who created it [Rom. 8:29 = being conformed into the image of Christ Jesus]— <sup>11</sup> *a renewal in which there is no distinction between Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian [uncultured], Scythian*

[unrefined], slave, *and* free, but Christ is all, and in all. [we are equal in Christ! So how do we treat our equals?]<sup>12</sup> So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, *and* patience [forbearance];<sup>13</sup> **bearing with one another**, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so *must* you *do* also.<sup>14</sup> In addition to all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity [or lit. uniting bond of perfection].<sup>15</sup> Let the peace of Christ, to which you were indeed called in one body, rule in [control] your hearts; and be thankful [show yourselves thankful]."

= IN Christ, chosen & beloved we are **equal**. We act & treat others with love & grace

- The end result??? (Vs. 15) = divine **peace** and gratitude:

- This morning, let's just focus on *one aspect* of the changed life: "**Bearing with One Another**"

"**Bear with**" = to tolerate, to endure something difficult or unpleasant on behalf of someone else: (like taking someone else's punishment; **like Simon Cyrene bore Jesus' cross/he helped him carry it to Golgotha**) = Simon bore Jesus' cross – since under its' weight Jesus fell

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**How do we Bear with one another practically?** (*in marriage, w/ kids, at church, sch./work*)...

**Vs. 12:** = put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, & patience, BEARING w/

1. We "bear with" one another in how we **interact** with them. We are to be **servants** to them:

We are to relate with other people with a **humble** attitude, with a **gentle** disposition and with godly **patience**.

Sometimes we will be connected to people at church, at work, neighbors whom we don't like or understand or experience in a positive way. What are we supposed to do?

-How do we treat them as Christ would treat them??

=Do we back off/ignore them? Or Engage their hearts, stick w/em, pursue em = bc valuable

I.e. "Bear with"= restrain oneself from doing what may want to do – and instead show mercy:

**-Have you ever just wanted to speak your mind, let somebody have it? You would feel better, but you would also leave a trail of emotional devastation...It would do more harm than good.**

\*God "restrains" Himself from action (He bears with) – our sin & corruption for a time...

(Is. 42:14; Rom. 2:4)

**-As Believers, because of what Jesus DID for us and modeled to us, we are to love one another; in order to love another, we must serve them; as we serve them (in love)...**

**A.** We must engage with their **lives** (their hearts and their burdens). = even if they are different than us; or we don't really know them well; or we think they are weird (**not our kind of people**)

\*What this **doesn't mean** is that we just give lip service; on the outside we are gracious, but inwardly we are resentful, harboring bitterness, allowing our mind and heart to run rampant.

-As believers, our outward actions need to be led by our inward devotion to Christ & motivation

**YES, it will Cost us!!** = sacrifice. **But Jesus did it for us!!! =modeled patient, long-suffering, care**

**Vs. 12** So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, **put on** a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, *and* patience [forbearance]; <sup>13</sup> **bearing with one another**, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; **just as the Lord forgave you, so must you do also.** <sup>14</sup> In addition to all these things **put on love**, which is the perfect bond of unity.

**For the church to truly be the body of Christ on earth, a genuine spiritual revival must take place within the hearts and lives of its members! = True, eternal LIFE-CHANGE!**

Only unconditional love can spin a thread strong enough to stitch the tapestry of uniquely different believers together in perfect unity.

-As we look to Jesus, He served the least of these in perfect love - & never compromised truth while acting in love. We are called to BEAR With those who are different than us. To press IN.

**"To find a friend you must close one eye; to keep him, you must close both"** – to love people is to love them with ALL their faults, hang-ups, quirks, oddities, problems, "issues" & inconsistencies

2. To Bear with One Another, we must not only be ready to **interact** with them with a **humble** attitude, with a **gentle** disposition and with godly **patience**, but **secondly** we must be ready and emotionally stable to bear with other peoples' **burdens** – esp. when they fall on hardship.

\*"Bear With" in this context = **Carry, uphold, lift/pick up, to shoulder** another's burden/load.

**READ Galatians 6:1-2**

**"Brothers and sisters, even if a person is caught in any wrongdoing, you who are spiritual are to restore such a person in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, so that you are not tempted as well. <sup>2</sup> Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ. "**

=The Law of Christ is to love your neighbor as yourself. =Take care of, support, nourish **self**.

-As we serve one another, we *Bear with* them, and help bear their **burdens**=**lighten their load**

\*Burden= **weight** of personal/eternal significance (problem, flaw, struggle, moral issue, rel.)

\*This can be awkward, spiritually heavy, emotionally weighty, even overwhelming =ur calling **Relational Care/Soul care 101**: At the WELL, you are safe to be vulnerable, unfinished, broken -Phil 2:3-4, 21 “with humility consider one another as more important than yourselves; <sup>4</sup> do not *merely* look out for your own personal *interests*, but also for the *interests* of others...For all the others look after their own interests, but not those of Jesus Christ.”

-Romans 15:1 “Now we who are strong ought to **bear the weaknesses** of those without strength, and not *just* please ourselves.” – have you ever just lost strength before; weak-kneed? **At the end of a marathon, some people can barely walk much less run...fall into arms**

\*Death of a spouse, sudden tragedy -house fire, car wreck, child is injured, great disappointment – loss of a job, or of deep relationship, = As part of God’s family, we are to come to the aid of fellow brothers and sisters with God’s love and power to help! **Bear with**  
\*The added strength of one helping bear that burden, shoulder that grief, carry that trial is often the difference in someone making it, pressing on, giving up/being swallowed in grief

## **APPLICATION:**

**What are specific ways you can shoulder another person’s burdens** (Bear with them)?

1. Be a safe space. A safe zone: = You are available to walk with someone in their personal, spiritual, and emotional challenges without sharing that with anyone else/gossiping (what you hear stays with you & you take it to the Lord, and help them take it to the Lord)
2. Be available to actively listen to them share their hearts, struggles, hurts, choices -without one upping them or sharing your own story of related struggle. Good listeners ask good follow-up questions, clarifying questions. = Press Into the hard stuff/messy stuff
3. Be ready to point them back to Jesus as the ONLY source of their need, hope, and help. This is what the Gospel does (it reminds us of God’s resurrection power to change our lives and situation with His grace alone, w/ real hope and His glory above all)
4. Be knowledgeable and ready to point them to key Scriptures in the Bible that will help them see that God has an answer for their hurts, trials, struggles, and hard choices:

### **30 Bible Verses for Overcoming Struggles in our lives:**

<https://www.biblestudytools.com/topical-verses/overcoming-bible-verses/>

Book: “**Quick Scripture Reference for Counseling**” by John G. Kruis

5. Be available to help others when they face various temptations. Be ready for a call or text when they are facing temptation or testing.
6. Be ready to pray with them and for them in that very hour of need. Be constant in prayer as you counsel and encourage. Lead by prayer. Lead by allowing God to speak into that situation. Ask God for help, for wisdom, for truth, to reveal lies, and to change hearts.
7. Be ready in your own life, your own spiritual growth, your own personal holiness, so you are walking as led by the Spirit and not your flesh; that when you speak and encourage you do it in the power of the Holy Spirit and not from your own tired anecdotes /experience.

-Are you spiritually healthy? Do you have a daily abiding walk with Christ Jesus?

-Are you ready to walk with somebody? Are you ready to bear with someone in need?

-Are you connected to a community group where you can be known, love, & serve others?

-There are people in your life who need to experience Jesus through you – are you willing?

### **Community Group Discussion Questions:**

1. What is the biblical connection between loving, serving, and bearing with one another?
2. What are the two different ways the Bible speaks of Bear With one another?
3. Of those two specific ways of Bearing With someone, which would you struggle with most?
4. In the Application, which of the seven ways to bear with someone in crisis or trial do you need the most help in improving? Did anyone check out those two helpful resources?
5. How can your community group demonstrate practically bearing with each other?