

# Spirit-Led Relationships in the Christian Community

Galatians 5:26-6:5

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**Take-Home Truth:** Being led by the Spirit always results in serving our Christian community in love.

## OUR CONDUCT TOWARD OTHER BELIEVERS IS INFLUENCED BY OUR OPINION OF OURSELVES.

*If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. <sup>26</sup>Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another. Galatians 5:25-26 (English Standard Version)*

“provoke” = “to challenge someone to a contest” = implies feeling superior  
“envy” = “jealous of someone’s gifts or attainments” = implies feeling inferior

## HELPING BEAR ANOTHER’S BURDEN IS AN ACT OF LOVE.

*Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. <sup>3</sup>For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. <sup>4</sup>But let each one test his own work, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor. <sup>5</sup>For each will have to bear his own load. Galatians 6:2-5 (ESV)*

### Key Thoughts

- We all have burdens.
- God does not mean for us to carry those burdens alone.
- When a believer bears another’s burdens, he or she is fulfilling the law of Christ.  
*. . . use your freedom to serve one another in love. <sup>14</sup>For the whole law can be summed up in this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” Galatians 5:13b-14 (New Living Translation)*
- One reason we decline bearing another’s burden is because we are too self-important.

- We are not to compare ourselves to others, but are to carry out the duties God assigns in a way that pleases Him.

**Application Tip:** Write out a list of believers to whom you are connected enough to be able to bear their burdens and to receive their help in bearing your own burdens. If married, include your believing wife and children. Now ask yourself, “Do I need to expand that group?” If you do, how will you begin to gain the relationships you need in the year to come? If you don’t, how will you better support the people in your spiritual community?

## **A COMMON EXAMPLE OF BEARING SOMEONE’S BURDEN: RESTORATION**

*Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. Galatians 6:1 (ESV)*

### **The Specifics**

- What does a believing friend do for that person? Restoration.
- Who is to do it? “You who are spiritual”.
- How are we to do it? “With gentleness”.

**Application Challenge:** Do you have a believing friend right now who is going the wrong direction spiritually? Ask yourself, “What is my responsibility to help restore them?”