

Bible Study Notes

Christians Helping Each Other

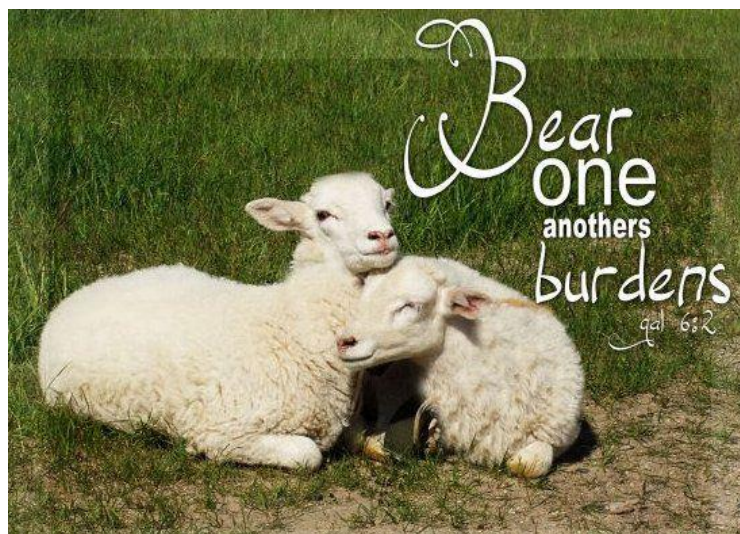
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Assembled by Craig M White

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." ~ **John 13:34-35**

For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another." ~ **John 3:11**

"Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ."
(NLT) ~ **Phil 3:8**



NB: If I have time I shall write an article on this subject – the aim will be to galvanise, not outrage. I would like to be sober and measured in such an article – not excited and radical. My homework has been done on Christians helping one another and I shall assemble my case brick-by-brick with the case being put forward with the Biblical evidence for this issue plain for all to see.

In the early Church of God they cared for each other:

- *physical needs (Acts 9:36, 39) and ...*
- *financial needs (Acts 4:32-3) and ...*
- *emotional needs (Rom 12:15) and ...*
- *spiritual needs (Eph 4:12).*

A. Helping each other:

"For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me" (Matt 25:35-36). [the principal is to have regard for another's needs, which requires self-sacrifice of time, money and keeping someone else's needs in mind]

"Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to **one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them**, you did it to Me" (Matt 25:40).

"Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world" (James 1:27).

"and on **those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor**, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, which our more presentable parts do not require. But **God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it**, that there may be no division in the body [*ie preferring others and forming cliques is causing division*], but that the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is

honored, all rejoice together." (1Cor 12:23-26. See 1Cor 1:26; 10:24).

"But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors." (James 2:9. Read all of James 2:2-10)

"If there is therefore any comfort in Christ, if any consolation of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any tender mercies and compassions, fulfill ye my joy, that ye be of the same mind, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind;

doing nothing through faction or through vainglory, but in lowliness of mind each counting other better than himself;

not looking each of you to his own things, but each of you also to the things of others.

Have this mind in you, which was also in Christ Jesus" (Phil 2:1-4)

"Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover him, and not to hide yourself from your own flesh? ... if you pour yourself out for the hungry and satisfy the desire of the afflicted, then shall your light rise in the darkness and your gloom be as the noonday." (Is 58:7, 10).

"As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy.

They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share" (1Tim 6:17-18).

"One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want.

Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered.

Whoever trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous will flourish like a green leaf." Prov 11:24-25, 28).

B. Love for each other:

"**Love one another as I have loved you**" (John 15:12).

"You are taught of God to **love one another**" (1Thess 4:9).

"Be **devoted to one another in love** –outdo one another in **honour**" (Rom 12:10).

"Owe nothing to anybody, except to **love one another**" (Rom 13:8).

"**Through love serve one another**" (Gal 5:13).

"**Bearing with one another in love ... be kind [not nasty] to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another**" (Eph 4:2,32).

"**Abound in love** toward one another" (1Thess 3:12).

"**Love one another** with a pure heart fervently ... love covers a multitude of sins" (1Pet 1:22, 4:8).

"**Love one another**" (1John 3:11,23, 1John 4:7,11,12, 2John 1:5).

Jas 3:17 But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere."

C. Christians edifying/building up one another:

"So then let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which we may **edify one another**" (Rom 14:19).

How?:

"**Encouraged by one another's faith** - yours and mine" (Rom 1:12).

"Brethren, and if a man be overtaken in any fault, you, who are spiritual, **instruct such a one** in the spirit of meekness, considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted ... As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all *men*, especially unto them who are of the household of faith." (Gal 6:1, 10)

"Confess your faults to one another and **pray for one another** that you may be healed" (James 5:16).

"But they that are learned shall shine as the brightness of the firmament: and they that **instruct many** to justice, as stars for all eternity." (Dan 12:3)

"Be **likeminded** toward one another ... **Accept** one another just as Christ accepted you" (Rom 15:5,7).

"Full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, that you may be able to **admonish** one another" (Rom 15:14).

"When you come together to eat [the Lord's Supper] **tarry** for one another" (1Cor 11:33).

"Bear one another's **burdens**, and so fulfill the law of Christ" (Gal 6:2, 1Cor 12:25).

"**Teaching and exhorting** one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs" (Eph 5:19, Col 3:16).

"**Submit** yourselves to one another in the fear of God" (Eph 5:21).

"Let each of you **esteem** one another as more important than himself ... Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus" (Phil 2:3-5).

"**Comfort** [encourage] one another with these words" (1Thess 4:18, 5:11)

"**Seek what is good** for one another and for all men" (1Thess 5:15).

"Let us consider one another to **provoke unto love and good works**" (Heb 10:24).

"Use **hospitality toward one another** without grumbling" (1Pet 4:9).

"**As each one has received a special gift, use it in serving one another**" (1Pet 4:10; see Rom 12; 1Cor 12).

D. Christians are supposed to be friends:

"You are **My friends** if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you slaves, for the slave does not know what his master is doing; **but I have called you friends**" (John 15:14-15).

"Peace be to you. **The friends greet you. Greet the friends by name**" (3 John 1:15).

"Greater love has no one than this, that one **lay down his life for his friends**" (John 15:13).

We are "**members of one another**" (Rom 12:5; Eph 4:25).

E. The love for Christian friends:

"A **friend loves** at all times ..." (Prov 7:17).

"Let **love of the brethren** continue" (Heb 13:10).

"Be **devoted** to one another **in brotherly love**; give **preference** to one another in **honor**" (Rom 12:10).

"For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but **through love serve one another**" (Gal 5:13).

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

"Honor all people, **love the brotherhood** ..." (1 Pet 2:17).

F. Because we love God, we are friends:

"This is My commandment, that you **love one another, just as I have loved you**" (John 15:12).

"Now as to the **love of the brethren**, you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves are **taught by God to love one another**" (1Thess 4:9).

"By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who does not

practice righteousness **is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother**" (1 John 3:10).

G. Self-sacrifice:

"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 John 3:16).

"Greater love has no one than this, that one **lay down his life for his friends**" (John 15:13).

"Then he gave orders to the centurion for him to be kept in custody and yet have some freedom, and not to prevent any of **his friends** from ministering to him" (Acts 24:23).

H. Defending and assisting those that cannot help themselves:

"**Never take advantage** of any widow or orphan. If you do and they cry out to me, **you can be sure that I will hear their cry.**" (Exodus 22:22-23)

"You are the helper of the fatherless. LORD, You have heard the desire of the humble; You will prepare their heart; You will cause Your ear to hear, To do justice to the fatherless **and the oppressed**, That the man of the earth may oppress no more. (Psalms 10:14,17-18)

"**Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father means caring** for orphans and widows **in their distress** and refusing to let the world corrupt you." (James 1:27. See 2:2-10)

"Father to the fatherless, **defender** of widows — this is God, whose dwelling is holy. God places the lonely in families." (Psalms 68:5-6)

"When you are harvesting your crops and forget to bring in a bundle of grain from your field, don't go back to get it. **Leave it for** the foreigners, orphans, and widows. Then the LORD your God will bless you in all you do." (Deuteronomy 24:19)

"**Learn to do good. Seek justice. Help the oppressed.** Defend the cause of orphans. Fight for the rights of widows." (Isaiah 1:17)

"**Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves; ensure justice for those being**

crushed. Yes, speak up for the poor and helpless, and see that they get justice.” (Proverbs 31:8-9)

“And anyone who welcomes a little child like this on my behalf is welcoming me.” (Matthew 18:5)

I. Some things we should not do to one another:

"Do not **judge** [condemn] one another any more" (Rom 14:13).

"If you **bite and devour** one another be careful lest you be consumed by one another ... Let us not become boastful, provoking one another, envying one another" (Gal 5:15,26).

"Do not **lie** to one another" (Col 3:9). [in some quarters a lot of 'little white lies' are told]

"**Speak not evil** of one another my brethren" (James 4:11).

"My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ of glory with **respect of persons**" (James 2:1; see 1Cor 1:26).

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How we walk
with the
broken speaks
louder than
how we sit
with the great.

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