

3 March 2019

## Love the brethren – Pt 3 Bear one another's burdens

This is our third study on brotherly love. Previously we established the actions that show love to our brethren which include – (i) walk in love – lay down your life for your brethren, (ii) serve one another, (iii) work no ill to your brother, and (iv) bear one another's burdens. In this final study on brotherly love we establish what practical things we can do to bear one another's burdens– (i) communicate, (ii) care, (iii) show compassion, and (iv) show charity – fervently out of a pure heart.

Scriptures upon which this teaching is founded.

### 1. Actions that contribute to us bearing "one another's burdens"–

#### i) Communicate

"That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate" (1 Tim6: 18).

Firstly we are to communicate to God in pray, then with our brethren – listening to their burdens, seeking to understand and empathise with them.

#### ii) Care and brotherly kindness.

"And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity" (2 Pet.1: 7). c.f – Tit 3:4 "But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared."

The love of God is linked to His kindness, and so when we show brotherly kindness we show love, and it is this kindness and care that motivates us to ask about the wellbeing of our brethren.

#### iii) Compassion

"But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?" (1 Jn.3: 17).

A burden could be something physical, mental or emotional. When we see a need, and do not communicate, do not care, and shut up our bowels of compassion then the scriptures ask – "how dwelleth the love of God in him?"(1 Jn. 3: 17). Hence, the love we have for our brethren is God's love – conveyed when we open our bowels of compassion and meet their needs. Whether it be for us to simply listen, pray, give our time, or something physical.

#### iv) Charity – fervently out of a pure heart

"Charity suffereth long, [and] is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up...Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things" (1Cor 13:4 & 7) – c.f. – 1 Pet,1:22 "see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently".

An illustration to help apply the teaching to our life today.

Le-Roy Jethro Gibbs in the TV series "NCIS" is a classic man of few words – especially with woman. He has had three wives and they would all say that he does not talk.

Question to think about.

How does bearing our brother's burden fulfil the law of Christ? or put another way – how does communicating, caring, having compassion, and charity for our brethren fulfil the law of Christ?

Our answer from the scriptures.

Christ showed His love to us by –

i) laying down His life for us (1 Jn.3: 16), and

ii) bearing our sin on Himself on the cross (1 Pet.2: 24), and

iii) receiving our day to day burdens and giving us His yoke that is easy (Matt.11: 28–30).

When Christians seek to bear their brother's burdens – to listen, journey with them and carry their burden, bear the infirmities of the weak (Rom.15: 1 ), and do so with care, compassion and charity they fulfil the law of Christ, and we show them the love of God, and when we love our brethren we fulfil the Old Testament law. Therefore, when we bear one another's burdens and show love to our brethren we fulfil both the law of Christ and the Old Testament law. Amen!