

I. Introduction.

II. Don't let pride stop you from lovingly bearing the burdens of others. v. 3-5 1 Th. 5:14

**A. Don't think too highly of yourself. v. 3 Ro. 12:3 7:18 1 Co. 13:2 4:7 15:10 8:13
Rev. 3:17 Luke 18:11**

- 1. The person who presumes that he is "something" believes that he is too important to get his hands dirty with the problems of others. 5:26**
- 2. In reality we all are nothing. Ro. 7:18,24 1 Tim. 1:15-16 Eph. 3:8 2 Co. 12:11**
- 3. What we are is only by the grace of God. 1 Co. 15:10 4:7 1:26ff Phil. 3:9**
- 4. Therefore, we should gladly bear the burdens of our fellow "nothings".**

B. Stop comparing yourself to others. v. 4 1 Co. 4:3-5 2 Co. 10:12

- 1. Don't measure yourself by the performance of others. Luke 18:11-12**
- 2. Measure your life's work against God's standard. v. 2b 6:2 5:14 John 13:34
2 Co. 13:5 Ps. 139:23-24**
- 3. Such a comparison should always humble you. Luke 17:10**
- 4. In what sense can you boast? Only in what God has done in you. 6:13-14
1 Co. 1:30-31 9:15 2 Co. 1:12,14 9:3 10:17 Eph. 2:10**

C. You have your own load to bear for which you are accountable to God. v. 5

- 1. The word *load* here is different from the word *burden* in verse 2.**
- 2. God has given each of us our own assignment/responsibilities in life. Luke 12:48**
- 3. We will each give account to God for our stewardship. Ro. 14:12 2 Co. 5:10**

D. Jesus humbly bore our burdens. Phil. 2:3-8 Isa. 53:4 Mt. 11:30 Mark 10:42-45

III. Bear the financial burdens of those who instruct you. v. 6

A. This is a very awkward verse from which to preach!

B. Those who benefit from sound biblical teaching should support their teachers.

- 1. Paul affirms a biblical principle of reciprocity. Rom. 15:26-27 Mt. 15:4-6
1 Co. 9:11 1 Tim. 5:1ff 2 Co. 8:14**
- 2. Sharing good things implies financial/material support. Luke 1:53 16:25
Phil. 4:15 Ro. 12:13 15:27**
- 3. Both Paul and Jesus affirm that those who work hard in the ministry of the Word should receive financial support. Luke 10:7 8:3 1 Co. 9:14,11 1 Tim. 5:17-18**
- 4. Only those who faithfully teach the Word/gospel should receive our support. 1:8
1 Tim. 5:17-18 2 Tim. 4:1ff 2 Co. 4:2**

C. Why do our teachers need to be paid? 1 Tim. 5:17-18

- 1. They need time to study the Word of God and to pray. Acts 6:4 1 Tim. 4:11-16**
- 2. They have many other responsibilities as they shepherd God's flock.**
- 3. When the job is done faithfully, it is hard work. 2 Co. 11:23ff 1 Tim. 3:1ff 5:17**
- 4. Should pastors have other jobs on the side?**

- D. Churches sometimes fail to adequately care for their teachers.**
1. Some professing Christians resent how their preachers are compensated. 5:26
 2. Some fail to give generously.
 3. Some churches have unrealistic expectations about how much their leaders need.
 4. How much should our instructors/pastors be paid?
 5. We should support our teachers cheerfully, regarding it as a privilege to share in their work. Phil. 4:15 2 Co. 9:7
 6. There are other good things we can do for those to teach and lead us. Heb. 13:17
1 Th. 5:12-13 Eph. 6:19
- E. Teachers sometimes abuse their right to financial support.**
1. Leaders must not be covetous. 1 Tim. 3:3 2 Co. 2:17 11:20 Ezek. 34:1ff
 2. We should be content. Phil. 4:11-13 1 Tim. 6:6ff
 3. Leaders should be above reproach in financial matters. Titus 1:7 1 Co. 16:3-4
 4. Paul's never requests money for himself. 1 Co. 9:15-18 1 Th. 2:9 2 Th. 3:6-13
Acts 20:33-35 2 Co. 11:7 Phil. 4:15-17
 5. Paul was willing to work, making tents.
- F. What you sow you will reap. v. 7-8**

IV. Concluding applications.

- A. How does the gospel relate to our giving financial support to our leaders?
- B. Christ has humbly given Himself for us. 2 Co. 8:9
- C. How can we share all good things with Him? 2:20 John 3:34 Mark 8:34 2 Co. 8:8

Discussion questions

1. What excuses do people give for not bearing one another's burdens?
2. Why shouldn't we compare our service to that of others?
3. In what way can boasting ever be right? v. 4
4. In what sense are we responsible to bear our own load? v. 5
5. Why should we offer financial support to those who teach us?
6. Which teachers should we support?
7. What example did Paul set when it comes to receiving financial support?
8. How would you advise someone who is having trouble getting financial support for his ministry?
9. How do churches fail to care for those who teach them?
Other than money, what good things can we do for those who instruct us?
10. How do some teachers/preachers abuse their right to support?
11. How does the gospel relate to offering financial support to our teachers?