

Not Being Overly Dependent On Others

I. Introduction:

A. It is great when brethren care so much about each other and will help even to their own hurt if need be (**Philippians 2:25-30**).

1. Yet, there are instructions that can't be carried out by others (**I Timothy 5:8**) [some exceptions; which we will address shortly].
2. There are expectations that we shouldn't want others to take on for us as well (**Acts 17:10-11**).

B. Yes, sometimes brethren face things they cannot handle alone (**Acts 11:27-30**).

1. It is good to be able to have support spiritually (**Philippians 1:27**).
2. It is good to be able to have support physically (**I John 3:14-18**).

II. Body: There Has To Be A Balance Though (**Galatians 6:1-5**)...

A. Sometimes people think too highly of themselves (**Proverbs 25:14**, **Proverbs 26:12**, and **Colossians 2:18**).

1. Such is not the Lord's will for us (**Romans 12:3**).
2. This is especially true of those that do little themselves, get a lot of help, and then become boastful (**Isaiah 10:5-15**).

B. Prove [test] your own work (**I Corinthians 11:28**, **Ephesians 5:10**, and **I Thessalonians 5:21**).

1. Think about the point of **I Thessalonians 4:11-12**
2. How can you follow **Galatians 6:4** if you have no work to test?
3. How could any of us read **James 1:21-27**; **2:14-26** and think ourselves faithful if we are not doing anything?
4. Consider: **II Corinthians 5:10** and **I Peter 1:17**

C. While **Galatians 6:5** appears to be teaching the same thing as verses 7-9, there is a variation. The word translated "burden" here only appears in three other N.T. Scriptures (**Matthew 11:30**, **Matthew 23:4**, and **Luke 11:46**).

1. The application here appears more to be talking about carrying your own weight (i.e. **Mark 8:34-35**).
2. Think of the Parable of the Talents. Could they take the responsibility given to them and pass that off on to someone more capable (**Matthew 25:14-30**)? NO!

D. What would occur if all brethren preferred to be on the giving side rather than the receiving side (**Acts 20:35**)?

1. How does **Hebrews 10:24** help us to help each other?
2. We are all supposed to be workers (**Matthew 5:14-16**, **Ephesians 2:10**, **II Timothy 3:14-17**, **Titus 2:11-14**, **Titus 3:8**, and **Titus 3:14**)!

III. Conclusion: **Matthew 16:27** and **I Corinthians 3:8**