

# The Case of the Burdened Believer

September 9, 2018

## Scripture:

“<sup>1</sup> 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. <sup>2</sup> 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 6:1–5, ESV)

## From the Introduction:

“The Christian walk is a shared journey. We do not walk alone; others also walk with us.”<sup>1</sup>

## Outline:

1) The prosecution: \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 3)

*<sup>3</sup> For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself.*

- a) There is danger for the one who seeks to \_\_\_\_\_ himself above others in the body.
- b) The believer must have a proper view of self in \_\_\_\_\_ to God and others.

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<sup>1</sup> Maxie Dunham, *The Preachers Commentary Series: Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, Philemon*, (Nashville: Thomas Nelson), Olive Tree Bible App.

2) The defense: \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 4)

*4 But let each one test his own work, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor.*

- a) The only true way to determine one's actions and motives is through \_\_\_\_\_.
- b) Instead of examining others, the believer must examine his own work to see how closely it \_\_\_\_\_ Christ's example.

3) The verdict: \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 5)

*5 For each will have to bear his own load.*

- a) One cannot truly bear the burden of another until they are \_\_\_\_\_ of bearing their own.
- b) The true follower of Christ must accept the fact that they are without exception \_\_\_\_\_ before God with both our attitude and actions.

**Remember:**

[6] But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” – James 4:6 (ESV)

**Reflect:**

“Talent is God-given; be humble. Fame is man-given; be thankful. Conceit is self-given; be careful” – Harvey Mackay

**Seek:**

- 1) In establishing the case for the prosecution, Pastor Mark noted, “Arrogance and pride are attitudes which deter the believer from serving others.” Take a few moments and consider how these things “deter the believer,” and record your thoughts.

**Share:**

- 1) In seeking to establish the defense, Pastor Mark states, “The only true way to determine one’s actions and motives is through self-reflection.” Can you remember a situation when honest spiritual self-reflection of your actions or motives caused you to make a radical change in how you treated others involved in a manner that you might not have, had you allowed your flesh to determine the outcome? Record your thoughts for sharing.

**Serve:**

- 1) In Galatians 6:5 the Apostle Paul states, “[5] For each will have to bear his own load.” Consider how bearing your own burden (load) will help you in serving others in the coming week.

**Pray:**

- ✓ Seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit, ask God to reveal to you whether you stand accused of self-deception. If so, ask for forgiveness. If the Spirit does not reveal such, ask the Lord to develop in you the same attitudes and actions of Christ in ministering to others.