

# *The Parchment*

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## *Carry One Other's Burdens*

If there is something I can say I hate, it is moving. Our family moved three times in three years. The last time we moved we only went from one townhouse to the next in the same building. I didn't want to bother too many people so I only asked a few brothers from our college group at the Diamond Bar church to help with the heaviest items. Turns out I needed a whole lot more help than that! After a day of breaking my back moving heavy boxes and unwieldy furniture, I cried out for more people to help. I thought I could handle more than I could. The burden of moving became too great for just me and my family to handle.

This story illustrates the "one another" verse for this issue, "Carry one other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ" (Galatians 6:2). In a recent issue (2:5, February 14) Lori shared how I helped her carry the burden of grief and decision-making after her mother passed away in 2001. Her example is one way to help carry another's burden. Burden bearing is an act of love where one person helps another with a trouble, difficulty, dilemma, or care that becomes too much for one person to carry. Galatians 6:5 clearly says

that "each one should carry his own load." The Apostle Paul is saying that for those responsibilities you can take care of yourself, diligently take care of those. But there will be times when you cannot handle something on your own. In these instances brothers and sisters in Christ should be ready to share the load.

The main obstacle I foresee in carrying out this "one another" is not the eagerness to help others; rather, it is the willingness to receive help. One of the hardest things for independently minded humans to say is "I need help." We are in a "self-help" society that encourages and lauds those who are self-made and self-sufficient. Asking for help is akin to showing personal weakness. Who wants to appear weak? Another difficulty in asking for help is the fear of owing others. When I had a group over to help me move, I immediately felt obliged to give them something back. Whether it is our pride or our fear that impedes our willingness to seek help, biblical teaching assumes we will need each other to carry the load at times. In this way we fulfill the Law of Christ, to love your neighbor as yourself (see Gal. 5:14).

On a February Saturday, more people from the church arrived at our townhouse to help us move the rest of our belongings. With all that help it only took a couple hours before all the contents of our old unit were moved to our newly painted unit. That move taught me a key spiritual lesson: in the body of Christ we both need to be willing to help and receive help from others.