

Carrying Burdens

Description

Galatians 6:1-6

My friend was out. We pastored churches of different denominations in the same town. Over the years, we worked together on community outreach and ministry. He was a man I respected, even though our theology differed. One year, rumors began to swirl when he came into conflict with a faction in his church. Unfortunately, he fueled the conflict early on with a dismissive attitude. His opponents actively undermined his ministry, pushing for his ouster.

Early one day he showed up at my door. He related the result of a congregational vote the day before. His story left us both in tears. I prayed for him and his family. As he left, I handed him my business card. I said I would be willing to serve as a reference if it would be helpful. We hugged and he was gone. Some months later, I heard he was filling pulpits as needed and still looking for a full-time position.

The road to restoration is long and arduous for both individuals and congregations. Spirit-filled believers need to be ready to respond to God's call: "Carry each other's burdens, and in this way . . . fulfill the law of Christ" (v. 2).

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Date Created

2025/05/19