Introduction:
A. All kinds of burdens in a Christian's life.
   1. Self-imposed.
      a. Consequences of past wrong doing.
      b. Acceptance of responsibility.
   2. Externally-imposed.
      b. Forced upon us by fellow-man.
B. Different kinds of burden's in our text.
   1. Must bear one another's - v. 2
   2. Must bear own. - v. 5
   3. Must do both! Used in different Senses.

Discussion:
I. We Must Bear One Another's Burden. (v. 2).
   A. Because others need our moral support.
      1. Those overaken in a fault. (v. 1).
         a. One "surprised" by sin - Various Lexicons.
         b. He is crushed and discouraged.
         c. Needs help of strong or spiritually mature. (cf. 1 Cor. 3).
         d. Unlike the rebel who need sharper treatment. (cf. Tit. 1:13; 2 Cor. 13:10).
      2. Those weak in the faith and knowledge. (Rom. 14:1; 15:1; 1 Thess. 5:14).
      3. Those with various needs. (cf. Rom. 16:2; 1 Tim. 5:10; 2 Tim. 4:16).
   B. Because the tables could be turned - shoe could be on other foot.
      1. May later want another to bear our burden.
         b. Must show mercy to obtain mercy. (cf. Mt. 5:7; Jas. 2:13).
      2. Must not let pride deceive us into thinking otherwise. (v. 3).
   C. Because one must fulfill the law of Christ. (v. 2; cf. Jno. 13:34).

II. We Must Bear Our Own Burden. (v. 5).
   A. By showing Godly independence.
      1. There is an ungodly independence.
         a. "I need nothing from you, nor do I owe you anything". (cf. 1 Cor. 12:21).
         b. "I know my rights in Christ, I plan to exercise them regardless..." (cf. 1 Cor. 9:19ff).
      2. There is a godly independence.
         a. "I must be judged by my own actions rather than another's".
         b. "It makes little difference if actions better, worse, or same as another". (cf. v. 4 NIV).
   B. By accepting full responsibility for relationship with God.
      1. No one can be save for another. (cf. Rom. 9:1-3).
      2. No one can do God's will for another.
         a. First Principles.
         b. Godly living.
      3. No one can be judged for another. (cf. 2 Cor. 5:10).
      4. No one can be God or conscience of another. (cf. Rom. 14:4,14,23).

Conclusion:
A. We want to help anyone, to extent we can, bear any burden he has.
B. We must not want to add any unnecessary burdens to another. (cf. Acts 15:28; Rev. 2:14).
C. But, in the final analysis he must bear his own burden before God.

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1 "Each man should test his own actions. Then he can take pride in himself, without comparing himself to someone else,"