

## Weekly Devotions: LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER 11

### Love is to Carry One Another's Burden

Some years back, I hurt my small toe and was limping for two weeks because of the pain. This little accident helped me understand what Paul meant in 1 Cor. 12: 26a that; "If one member suffers, all suffer together..." (1 Cor. 12: 26a).

Likewise, when our brothers and sisters in Christ are struggling, we cannot turn our back on them but to come alongside to 'bear with one another's burden' (Gal. 6: 2). As one family of God, we need to be concerned and to look out for one another. The opposite of love is not hate but **indifference**. When we are indifferent to the struggles of people, there is no love in us.

We express agape love through mutual support and encouragement. True love is to put the interests and welfare of others before our own. Carrying each other's burden can be as simple as coming alongside and offer a listening ear or to be a friend to those who are facing life's crisis. It can also be to help others grow spiritually. To bear one another's burden is following after Jesus' example; He carried our sorrows and the punishment for our sin when He went to the cross.

### Read 1 Cor. 12: 12-26

Paul referred to the Church as the body to highlight the variety and unity in the body. Everyone, regardless of gifting, talents, status, intellect, gender, has a critical role to play in the church. Paul exhorted that in the body of Christ, everyone is important and we need one another for the overall health of the body. Mutual care, support & interdependence are intrinsic to the body (24). Just as no single part of the body can survive on its own outside the body, no believer can survive spiritually unless he / she is an active member in the body of Christ.

### *Questions to ponder*

1. Every part of the human body, including the appendix, has an important function. In the body of Christ, what is your role / function and how are we in the church dependent on one another?
2. What lessons was Paul teaching about the Church in verses 14-22? Do you see some of these problems Paul highlighted in your church?
3. How can you and / or your cell / fellowship group support and bear the burden of others in the church? Share a time when you have been blessed by the support and care given to you by other members in the church.

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