

The Relational Disciple



Bear With Each Other

Discipleship groups purpose: Each member being transformed into the image of the Son.

Key Truth: Bear with each other.

Read: The bible teaches that the strong are to bear the weaknesses of those without strength and not just please ourselves.

Romans 15:1 *Now we who are strong ought to bear the weaknesses of those without strength and not just please ourselves.*

Just like Jesus didn't come to be served but to serve others, we too are to follow this example because of the life of Christ we know. It's virtually impossible to bear the weaknesses of others and put others ahead of one's self, unless we know Christ intimately. Being strong, means to be strong in Christ, not strong in us. Those who are strong in self, will not have what's required within them to be patient and help and serve others, in the way Christ intends.

We also have to be careful of the false version of bearing others weaknesses, where we literally run around after someone in an attempt to be needed, feel a sense of importance and accomplishment, where we pat ourselves on the back and say "good job". This is another version of pleasing ourselves, but it is way more disguised than some one who is not present at all.

The Spirit of the Lord was upon Jesus to help the weak, the broken, and the downtrodden, and He is looking for disciples who can also model this Christ like behaviour, because the Spirit is also upon them. Galatians teaches us to carry one another's burdens. This doesn't mean to literally take the burden on ourselves and try and fix it because we can't, but we are to pray with, believe for, be there for and encourage a brother or sister with where they are at, believing all things for our "neighbour."

How much of our lives are dedicated to helping those who are weaker than us? Once again when I say this I don't just mean in the area of physical weakness but spiritual weakness. Ultimately this passage is talking about those who are spiritually weak and strong. Those spiritually strong are to lay their lives down for those who are spiritually weak. Those strong are to pray for and invite the weak to walk with them in discipleship for the purpose of becoming strong. The strong speak the truth in love to the weak to help them grow and love them unconditionally. It is those who are spiritually strong who are able to live 1 John 3:16 out.

1 John 3:16 *We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.*

Questions:

1. What does being strong in Christ look like?
2. How does this enable one to bear the weaknesses of others accurately?
3. Why is it easy to look like one is bearing the weakness of others, but in reality be serving one's own selfish need to be wanted and needed?
4. How much of our own life is spent living for others because we are strong?

Pray and encourage one another to press in to all God has for us.