

What does it take to care effectively for others?

1) Be able to confront in love

(Gal. 6:1) – Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted.

This is something that is difficult but very necessary for a church. No one likes confrontation. It is messy, it's not fun, and it's difficult to handle. However, if a person or church truly loves another believer that is struggling, then they will love them enough to challenge them on the sin in their life and help them toward repentance and reconciliation.

2) Be willing to help carry the load

(Gal. 6:2) – Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

not your job to fix people – speak truth and point them to Jesus - point out lies, challenge with the truth.

Verse 2 tells us to “Carry each others burdens.” The Greek word here for “carry” means to lift the burden of another in a time of need. It is not an instruction to take ownership of the other person's problem, but a command to help someone with their problem for a short time. In other words, we are commanded to care and be sensitive to the needs and problems that others are facing. People are hurting all around us, and they need others that will come along side of them and help carry the load.

3) Do a gut check

(Gal. 6:3-4) If anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself. Each one should test his own actions. Then he can take pride in himself, without comparing himself to somebody else,

To be effective in caring for others, you have to do a gut check and make sure you are staying humble and pure. Be pure! We have to stay pure to hear God's voice and minister to the people he has called us to reach out to. We also have to stay humble. We all compare ourselves with others from time to time, but this needs to stop. God does not compare us with anyone else no matter what they are struggling with. Our standard is Jesus. Our goal should be

to look and act just like Him, not to just try to do it a little better than our neighbor.

Philippians 2:3-4 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

4) Stay focused

(Gal. 6:5) For each one should carry his own load.

The first several verses of this passage were easy for me to understand and very encouraging and challenging to anyone that is involved in the care of others. Then I hit verse 5 "for each one should carry his own load." At first, I was confused by this passage. First God tells me to carry someone else's burden, then He tells me to carry my own. Do these commands contradict? When I spent some time studying this scripture it became very clear that verse 5 does not contradict verse 2. In verse 5 the Greek word for "carry" is a word that describes a soldier carrying his gear that he is responsible for. In other words, God has given each of us gifts and responsibilities and we are called to honor God every day in the way we use those gifts and honor those responsibilities. We have to stay focused. God is telling us in this passage to carry the burdens of others, but not to get consumed by it, and even in carrying the load temporarily of others we must not neglect the responsibility of living a godly lifestyle and staying focused on Jesus.

5) Know your limits

Not your job to care for everyone.

Ephesians 4:11-12 It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up

Prepare God's people - that is your job. Pour into volunteers - empower them to minister.

6) Receive ministry

You can't give what you don't have. What does God need to heal you of? You have to be healthy to help carry the load of others. Who ministers to you and pours into you?

What are the specific responsibilities of Care/ Outreach Team?

- 1) Pastoral Ministry
- 2) Follow-up from Sundays
- 3) Weekly email Followup
- 4) Hospital Ministry
- 5) Food Ministry
- 6) Weddings (premarital class)
- 7) Funerals
- 8) Benevolence
- 9) Baptism
- 10) Membership
- 11) Outreach - local and foreign missions
- 12) Security