

# Galatians 6:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.

## Analysis

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**Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.** Paul commands mutual burden-bearing. "Bear ye one another's burdens" (allēlōn ta barē bastazete, ἀλλήλων τὰ βάρη βαστάζετε)—keep on bearing each other's heavy loads. Baros (βάρος) means heavy weight, burden too great for one person. Bastazō (βαστάζω) means to carry, bear weight, endure. Present imperative: continuous action. This includes bearing with others' faults (verse 1), sharing material resources (verse 6), and providing emotional/spiritual support.

"And so fulfil the law of Christ" (kai houtōs anaplērōsete ton nomon tou Christou, καὶ οὕτως ἀναπληρώσετε τὸν νόμον τοῦ Χριστοῦ)—and thus you'll fulfill Christ's law. Anaplēroō (ἀναπληρώω) means to fill up, complete, fulfill. "The law of Christ" is love's law (5:14, John 13:34-35, 15:12)—the new commandment to love as Christ loved us. Mutual burden-bearing fulfills this. The irony: Paul fought the Judaizers' imposition of Mosaic law while commanding obedience to Christ's law. The difference: Mosaic law commands externally and condemns; Christ's law springs from love and is Spirit-enabled.

## Historical Context

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Christian community is burden-sharing community. Early church modeled this through economic sharing (Acts 2:44-45, 4:32-37), mutual care (Romans 12:15, 1 Corinthians 12:26), and spiritual encouragement (Hebrews 3:13, 10:24-25). Greco-Roman culture valued independence and self-sufficiency; Christianity valued interdependence. This countercultural ethic continues: Western individualism

opposes burden-bearing. But Christian maturity involves both bearing others' burdens (verse 2) and carrying your own load (verse 5)—paradox requiring Spirit-wisdom to navigate. Christ is both model (bearing our sins) and lawgiver of love.

## Related Passages

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**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

## Study Questions

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1. Whose burdens—practical, emotional, spiritual—are you currently bearing, and whose burdens are you ignoring?
2. How does mutual burden-bearing fulfill Christ's law of love rather than imposing legalistic obligation?
3. What's the practical difference between the law of Moses (which Paul rejected) and the law of Christ (which he commands)?

## Interlinear Text

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Ἄλλήλων τὰ βάρη βαστάζετε καὶ οὕτως ἀναπληρώσατε  
one another's G3588 burdens Bear ye and so fulfil  
G240 G922 G941 G2532 G3779 G378

τὸν νόμον τοῦ Χριστοῦ  
the law of Christ  
G3588 G3588 G3551 G5547

## Additional Cross-References

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**Romans 15:1** (Parallel theme): We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves.

**1 Thessalonians 5:14** (Parallel theme): Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all men.

**John 13:34** (Word): A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.

**1 John 4:21** (Word): And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also.

**John 15:12** (Word): This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.

**James 2:8** (Word): If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well:

**Exodus 23:5** (Parallel theme): If thou see the ass of him that hateth thee lying under his burden, and wouldest forbear to help him, thou shalt surely help with him.

**1 Peter 2:24** (Parallel theme): Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

**Matthew 8:17** (Parallel theme): That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses.

**1 Corinthians 9:21** (Word): To them that are without law, as without law, (being not without law to God, but under the law to Christ,) that I might gain them that are without law.