

**One in Christ:
United to each other**

**Third talk:
Bear one another's burdens**

The texts

Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfil the law of Christ. [Galatians 6.2]

If I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. [John 13.14]

You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. *[Through love become slaves of one another.]* [Galatians 5.13]

The Good Samaritan – the great burden-bearer

- Love your neighbour as you love yourself
- Love your neighbour as if she were part of you: the ‘one another’ principle
- Love your neighbour as God loves you
- Love your neighbour as you love God: the 1 John principle
- The lawyer presses the point – *but who is my neighbour?*

The Good Samaritan – the great burden-bearer

- **Answer: The one whom you stumble across while living your life, or, the one whom the Holy Spirit offers to you.**
- **Do not confuse ‘bearing each other’s burdens’ with ‘taking up your cross’. Christians can burn themselves out through false guilt.**
- **Being a good Samaritan is not about how many charitable deeds you perform, but about sanctified character. So we don’t need to have a ‘good Samaritan competition’!**

Humility

- **To be a burden-bearer is to have a humble spirit**
- **Coming down [or up] to the same level**
 - **Philippians 2** – *he made himself nothing by taking the very form of a servant...*
 - **Noticing:** sometimes the glaringly obvious, when not self-absorbed
 - **Speaking:** the same language [Xhosa]
 - **Listening,** not a chatterbox [John 8]
 - **Not labelling:** Jesus disliked titles [*Bad Sir Brian Botany*]
 - **Accessible** [ctr High Commissioner]



Humble
dignity

Humility

- **Coming down lower in order to lift up**
- **Avoiding judgment: the priest and the Levite have preconceived judgments about the injured man**
- **In a polarized world, being prepared to get your hands and your reputations dirty: *Nothing outside a person can defile them by going into them. Rather, it is what comes out of a person that defiles them.***

Generosity

- **2 Corinthians 8**

- The same word is used for ‘gift’ and ‘grace’
- The Corinthians are encouraged to give like the Macedonians, who
 - gave themselves to the Lord
 - gave themselves by the will of the Lord to others
- The Corinthians encouraged to give like Jesus, who *though he was rich, yet he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.*
- The goal is equality [8.14], not watered down like NRSV ‘so that there may be a fair balance’.

Generosity

- **Hospitality** – *greet one another with a holy kiss*
 - Look into their eyes when you are drinking a toast
 - Open hearts – through the eyes, into the heart
 - Open doors – over the threshold, into the family
 - Wastefulness, or is it lavish celebration that we are members of one another?

Generosity

- **Mme Lepelesane's walking stick**
 - Giving what you cannot afford to give
 - Or, can you afford to give yourself?







Risk

- **Cath and the vicious neighbours**
- **Martyrdom: for all, witness; for a few, death; at times, pain; in all things, joy.**