

Rhythm of Walking With Others

MAIN SCRIPTURE: Romans 15: 1-7 (NIV)

1. The Rhythm of Walking With Others uses their strength to build up the weak.

“We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. Each of us should please our neighbors for their good, to build them up.” Romans 15: 1-2 NIV

This is our obligation in the family of God. To be aware of the person who feels they cannot make it where they feel powerless.

James 2:15-16 ESV

“If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, ‘Go in peace, be warmed and filled,’ without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that?”

Galatians 6:2

“Bear one another’s burdens and thus fulfill the law of Christ.”

Jeremiah 31:3 (NASB)

**“I have loved you with an everlasting love;
Therefore I have drawn you out with kindness.”**

Don’t forget where God brought you from- it was only the love of God that drew you and redeemed you out of darkness.

Kindness is powerful.

Hebrews 12:11-13 (ESV)

“For the moment, all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it. Therefore, lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be out of joint but rather healed.”

If we don’t allow ourselves to be trained, we will not be able to carry anyone and we will begin operating undisciplined and unhealed.

2. The Rhythm of Walking With Others requires a tender heart and tight boundaries.

We cannot shoulder any one's burdens without the fruit of the Spirit.

It is impossible for our human nature to bear one another's burdens without long suffering and patience.

Romans 5:7 NIV

"Very rarely will one die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die"

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law." Galatians 5:22-23 ESV

Chrestos- Kindness (translated in the Greek, used in Galatians 5:22)
Means a softening of something that was once harsh.

We need our hearts continually softened because it is not in our nature to give merciful kindness to people who may not deserve it.

The scripture obligates us to carry one another's burdens but we are not obligated to carry them.

Carrying one another's burdens requires creating healthy boundaries.

Jesus said, Matthew 11:28-30,

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

To labor in faith, with a brother or sister, means we partner with Christ so that we are under His grace and not over-functioning.

We must pray for grace to bear the burdens of others

3. The Rhythm of Walking With Others produces radical acceptance.

"Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God." Romans 15:7 NIV

Job 42:10 NIV

"After Job prayed for His friends, the Lord restored his fortunes and gave him twice as much as he had before"

1 Corinthians 3:5

“What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe- as the Lord has assigned to each his task. I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow.”

This is our obligation, to be a servant for God’s use, just in case he asks you to water, or to plant a seed- you are fully aware and ready to resource whoever God sends your way.