CALLED TO BEAR YOUR OWN LOAD

**Scripture Reading….6 Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.2Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.3For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself.4But let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another.5For every man shall bear his own burden.6Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things.7Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.8For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.9And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.10As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.**

**Prayer**

**INTRODUCTION**

1. I don’t know about you but I believe that a blessing enjoyed in Christ is the support from brethren in times of spiritual crisis...

\*\*\*\*\*\*PR Experience…\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

1. You see the Bible calls upon those who are strong to support the weak –

[**Ro 15:1**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ro%2015.1)**….**We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves.

1. And then the bible also calls on those who are really spiritual to help those who need help to overcome when overtaken in a fault –

[**Ga 6:1**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ga%206.1)**….**Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.

 -- It is part of the "law of Christ" to bear one another's

 burdens –

[**Gal 6:2**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ga%206.2)**…**2Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

1. And less we forget at the same time, we have a responsibility to become strong our own selves...
2. So then according to scripture each Christian has a responsibility to **"bear his own load"** –

[**Gal 6:4-5**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ga%206.4-5)**….**4But let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another. 5For every man shall bear his own burden.

1. The reason for all this is because we will be held accountable for our own actions –

[**Ro 14:12**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ro%2014.12)**….**12So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

 It is our responsibility to pick ourselves up as well. Fend for ourselves, Strive to survive, in other words… No Pain, No Gain.

[**Heb 12:12-13**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/He%2012.12-13)**….**Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees;13And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed.

3. Truthfully speaking bretheren the bottom line is that Some Christians never seem to progress from being **supported to supporting themselves...**

1. They remain very dependent upon their brethren

 b. Unless constantly nurtured by brethren, they fall away or become

 apathetic.

 -- in the world Such brethren are what might be described as

## "high maintenance"

Allow me to ask 3 questions this morning…..

Are you a person who you yourself or many may consider a **"high maintenance"** person?

Is it ok or When is it okay to be a **"high maintenance"** person?

What is "high maintenance" anyway...?]

**I. ALLOW ME TO EXPLAIN THE DEFINITION OF "HIGH MAINTENANCE"**

 **A. AS USED IN EVERYDAY SPEECH...**

 1. It refers to a person place or thing that requires the need for

 a lot of attention, special or not.!!

1. It also refers to a certain maintenance performed or maintenance Required in order to maintaining something in good order..**My Job!**
2. High maintenance requires a lot of time, energy, or money

as in (babysitting services.

1. Any person or thing that requires a lot of attention are

considered to be **“High Maintenance”**

1. **Cars** that require a lot of work to keep it running are called

**“High Maintenance cars”**

 b. **Employees** that require close supervision to do their jobs

 right become **“High Maintenance Employees”**

1. **Children** who are often crying can be called **“High Maintenance** Children” They Require lots of attention!
2. **Husbands or Wives** that love to look or live above those around them can be called **“High Maintenance”**

**B. LET US NOW LOOK AT IT IS APPLIED TO CHRISTIANS...**

1. Can Some Christians can be considered "high maintenance"…?? Yes

 a. If they require a lot of attention in order to remain

 faithful

1. If they require a lot of coddling or pampering to be active

in church duties or responsibilities.

1. **Christians that are "high maintenance"...are those who are…**

 a. **Babes in Christ** just starting their new spiritual life needing

 the sincere milk of the word of God. They are just that…

 Babes in Christ!! Needing special care and attention in order

 to survive in their new spiritual state. So they are

 considered to be **“High Maintenance Babes”**

 b. **Slothful Christians** who attend church and work only

 when constantly called upon. Can be called

 **“slothful High Maintenance Christians”**

1. Even some **churches** today as a whole can be **"high maintenance"**

 (or-not)

1. The church in Corinth certainly was a **“High Maintenance”** Church.

[**1Co 3:1-4**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/1Co%203.1-4)**; And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ.2I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able.3For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?4For while one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I am of Apollos; are ye not carnal?**

[**2 Co** **12:20-21**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/2%20Co%2012.20-21)**…20For I fear, lest, when I come, I shall not find you such as I would, and that I shall be found unto you such as ye would not: lest there be debates, envyings, wraths, strifes, backbitings, whisperings, swellings, tumults:21And lest, when I come again, my God will humble me among you, and that I shall bewail many which have sinned already, and have not repented of the uncleanness and fornication and lasciviousness which they have committed.**

**So then I can’t help myself but to ask this question …Are we a church that someone calls a “High Maintenance Church”….You do the math!!!!’**

But wait before you do…..Let’s examine another church….

1. The church in Phillipi ….Let’s see How Paul viewed the church…

[**Php 1:3-7**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Php%201.3-7)**…3I thank my God upon every remembrance of you,4Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy,5For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now;6Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:7Even as it is meet for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart; inasmuch as both in my bonds, and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel, ye all are partakers of my grace.**

**[Some "high maintenance" is good and necessary in the work of the local church. But when it exists where it should not, then there can be some problems...]**

**II. THE DIFFICULTY OF "HIGH MAINTENANCE"**

 **A. WHERE IT CAN HELP...**

 1. **"High maintenance"** **is crucial for the newborn Christian**

 a. Just as it is for a physical baby

 b. Weak in faith, weak in knowledge, they are very susceptible

 c. Without the proper attention, they may soon be overcome

 2. **"High maintenance" is essential for the hurting Christian**

 a. Just as it is for someone who is sick or injured

 b. Overtaken in a fault, suffering physical illness or

 persecution, they are weak

 c. Without the proper attention, they may soon be overwhelmed

 -- In such cases, "high maintenance" is certainly called for - cf.

[**1Th 5:14**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/1Th%205.14)**…14Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all men.**

 **B. WHERE IT CAN HURT..**.

 1. **When it hinders the growth of the church**

 a. Which grows through evangelism, edification, benevolence

 b. Which may not if undue effort is spent on a select few.

 2. When it **holds back the efforts of workers**

 a. Paul desired to preach where Christ was not named –

[**Ro 15:20**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ro%2015.20)…Yea, so have I strived to preach the gospel, not where Christ was named, lest I should build upon another man's foundation:

1. Yet churches like the one at Corinth held him back –

**2Co 2:12-13Furthermore, when I came to Troas to preach Christ's gospel, and a door was opened unto me of the Lord,13I had no rest in my spirit, because I found not Titus my brother: but taking my leave of them, I went from thence into Macedonia.**

1. **When more serious needs go unmet**

 a. E.g., babes in Christ not being helped, because others

 expect coddling

 b. E.g., the sick and dying being neglected, because others

 require attention

[There are times in our spiritual lives when we all require some **"high**

**maintenance"**. But to avoid keeping it from those who really need it, we

should give serious thought and effort toward...]

**III. THE DEFEAT OF "HIGH MAINTENANCE"**

 **A. THROUGH INDIVIDUAL GROWTH...**

 1. We need **"high maintenance"** when we are babes in Christ

 2. But we should reach a point where we do not need it

 3. Where we can become the **providers**, not just the **recipients**

 -- Consider the unfortunate case of the Hebrew Christians –

[**He 5:12-14**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/He%205.12-14)**….12For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of 13For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe.14But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.**

 **B. THROUGH INDIVIDUAL STRENGTH...**

 1. Strength from brethren is certainly helpful when we need it

 2. But we should also reach a point where our strength comes from

 God

 3. Where we can become the **producers**, not just the **consumers**

 -- Consider the remarkable example of the apostle Paul –

**Php 4:11-13 11Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.12I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.13I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.**

[**2Co 1:3-6**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/2Co%201.3-6)**….3Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort;4Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.5For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ.6And whether we be afflicted, it is for your consolation and salvation, which is effectual in the enduring of the same sufferings which we also suffer: or whether we be comforted, it is for your consolation and salvation.**

**CONCLUSION**

1. My purpose **has not been to discourage** **"high maintenance"** when it is

 rightly needed...

1. For we are to bear one another's burden –

[**Ga 6:2**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ga%206.2)**….2Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.**

1. And the strong are to bear with the infirmities of the weak –

[**Ro 15:1**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ro%2015.1)**….15 We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please**

**ourselves.**

2. My desire **has been to challenge** you in thinking about your service to

 Christ...

1. To reflect about your work in the kingdom

[**Ga 6:4**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ga%206.4)**….4But let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another.**

1. Are you bearing your own load? –

[**Ga 6:5**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ga%206.5)**….5For every man shall bear his own burden.**

When a burden becomes unbearable, that is when we need **"high**

**maintenance"** from our brethren.

On the other hand…..

When failure to bear our own load requires "high maintenance", that is when we hinder the cause of Christ...!

 **"He who is slothful in his work is a brother to him who is a**

 **great destroyer." (**[**Pr 18:9**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Pr%2018.9)**)**