



**Shaking the Dust Off**  
**Romans 12:18; Proverbs 26:11; Galatians 6:2-5**  
**Message from Pastor Martin Hawley**  
**July 2, 2017**

**Idea:** You can have peace **about** the relationship without peace **in** the relationship.

**The Bottom Line:** You are responsible *to* other people, but not *for* other people.

**Introduction:**

None of us want bad blood, but all of us have some.



“If it is possible, **as far as it depends on you**, live at peace with everyone (Romans 12:18).”

You can have peace **about** the relationship even without peace **in** the relationship.

The first week, we talked about how the path to **peace** is paved with **empathy**. In a difficult relationship, **empathy** can be the key to opening a dialogue that **leads to** a healthy relationship.

The second week, **forgiveness** is the vehicle to move you down the path. **Forgive** the debt.

When you have wronged, **repent**. When you have been wronged, **forgive**.

All relationships take two.

Today, we want to discuss, “**How long** does it depend on me?” When does my **continued extension** of assistance become **irresponsible**?

### The Problem:

Reconciling becomes especially tough when we’re dealing with toxic people. You might have bad blood with someone who is toxic. The Bible calls these people fools.

**Fools** continually **behave** in ways that hurt themselves or others.

“As a dog returns to its vomit, so fools repeat their folly (Proverbs 26:11).”

When a fool’s irresponsibility is creating collateral damage in his/her life or yours, create boundaries. When a fool is putting you in harm’s way, create boundaries.

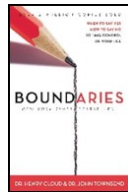
Boundaries create understanding and define responsibilities.

Book Recommendation: *Boundaries* by Henry Cloud & John Townsend; ISBN: 0310247454

### Truth:

The Apostle Paul tells us how to know what depends on and what depends on the other person.

“**Carry** each other’s **burdens**, and in this way you will the law of Christ (Galatians 6:2).”



us

fulfill

We’re commanded to help one another with our burdens.

We’re **responsible to** help bear any **burden** that has become too **big**.

“If anyone thinks they are **something** when they are **not**, they **deceive** themselves (Galatians 6:3).”

Be careful of this. Don’t believe everything you think. You can trick yourself.

A fool thinks he cannot fall. Arrogant thought impedes compassionate behavior.

“Each one should **test** their own actions (Galatians 6:4).”

Carries the idea of examining or paying careful attention to.

This is something only I can do. You can’t do this for me.

I shouldn’t ask you to **help me carry** something I’m **not** carrying myself.

**Love** does not mean unlimited **assistance**.

Sometimes the most loving/Christian thing to do is to set a boundary.

**Conclusion:**

Because God never gives up, we should never give up either. However, you're not the Savior. He is. Let Jesus be Jesus.

You can have peace **about** the relationship, even without peace **in** the relationship.

**NEXT STEPS:**

- Memorize: Romans 12:18.**
- Who's burden do you help carry?**
- Where do you need to set a boundary?**
- Join a Community Group.**

“Each one should **test** their own actions. Then they can take pride in themselves alone, without comparing themselves to someone else ... (Galatians 6:4).”

The “pride” mentioned here is not sinful pride. This is the good feeling when we are being responsible with our life and succeed.

“For each one should **carry their own load** (Galatians 6:5).”

Load in verse five is different from burden in verse two. Load is the same as portion.



The idea is that we should help **carry** one another's **burdens**, but each one should **carry** his or her own daily **load**.

Burden is excess. Load is my portion. We are each responsible for our own portions. I should not be responsible for your load.

**OR**

**Application:**

Problems arise when people act as if their “boulders” are daily loads and refuse help or act as if their “daily loads” are boulders they shouldn't have to carry.

		One leads to other to		perpetual pain the irresponsibility.
We are another's heavy loads that happen in life from time to time.		<b>responsible to</b> burdens, which		help carry one are the unexpected

We are **responsible to** carry our own daily portion, which is our feelings, behaviors, attitudes, and life responsibilities-like rent, mortgage, light bill, transportation, etc.

Fools expect you to carry their burdens and their load/portion.

Fools try to make you feel guilty about not helping them with their load/portion.

When we feel responsible for carrying one another's portion, we **rob** people of experiencing the **outcomes** of their **decisions**.