

# A Man's Responsibility to Other Men

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*I looked for a man among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land so I would not have to destroy it, but I found none (Ezekiel 22:30).*

## Introduction

- **Personal background**
- **Friends with serious problems**
- **“Lone Ranger” Christianity**
- **We are part of the body. We need each other.**

## We are responsible for one another.

*In Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others (Romans 12:5).*

- **We can grow together in fellowship, learning, and encouraging.**

*Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God (Col. 3:16).*

*Therefore encourage each other with these words (1 Thessalonians. 4:18).*

*Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing (1 Thessalonians. 5:11).*

*But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness (Hebrews. 3:13).*

*Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching (Hebrews 10:25).*

- **We can reach out to a brother who is facing difficulties.**

*A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother (Proverbs 18:24).*

*We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. Each of us should please his neighbor for his good, to build him up (Romans 15:1-2).*

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

*Be merciful to those who doubt; snatch others from the fire and save them; to others show mercy, mixed with fear—hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh (Jude 1:22-23).*

*Like an earring of gold or an ornament of fine gold is a wise man's rebuke to a listening ear (Proverbs 25:12).*

*Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted (Galatians 6:1) .*

- **We can ask for help when we face difficulties.**

## **Personal Application**

**(1) Is there someone with whom you could grow together in the Lord?**

**(2) Do you know someone going through a hard time?**

- Consider saying something such as, "I've noticed you seem kind of down, recently. What's going on? I'd like to pray with you, if you'd like."
- Respond to his words with compassion and concern, not disgust. Do not talk down to him.
- Offer to meet together regularly for prayer.
- Offer to do a Bible study, go through a book or attend a class together.
- Invite him to lunch from time to time.
- Look for him in church. Ask how he's doing.
- Phone him periodically.
- Help with finances or physical needs.

**(3) Are you going through a difficult time? Who could you reach out to?**