

Principle Six – Support

Primary Scriptural Reference

1 Corinthians 12:12 & 26 (ESV)

¹² *For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.*

²⁶ *If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.*

Why Support?

Romans 12:4-18 (ESV)

⁴ *For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function,* ⁵ *so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.* ⁶ *Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith;* ⁷ *if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching;* ⁸ *the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.* ⁹ **Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good.**

¹⁰ **Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.** ¹¹ *Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord.* ¹² *Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.* ¹³ *Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.* ¹⁴ *Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.* ¹⁵ *Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.* ¹⁶ **Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight.** ¹⁷ *Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all.* ¹⁸ *If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.*

Seven Scriptural Principles

1. **Scripture**
2 Tim 3:16-17
2. **Supreme Trinity**
2 Cor 13:14
3. **Sin**
James 1:13-15
4. **Salvation**
John 3:16-17
5. **Sanctification**
Romans 12:1-2
6. **Support**
1 Cor 12:12 & 26
7. **Share**
1 Thes 2:8

How to provide support?

1 Corinthians 13:1-7 and 13 (ESV)

¹ If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ² And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. ³ If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing. ⁴ Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant ⁵ or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶ it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ **Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.**

¹³ So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

How to correct others?

Proverbs 27:17 (ESV)

¹⁷ *Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another.*

Matthew 18:14-18 (ESV)

¹⁴ *So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.* ¹⁵ *"If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother.* ¹⁶ *But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses.* ¹⁷ *If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.* ¹⁸ *Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.*

How to pray for others

Ephesians 1:16-20 (ESV)

¹⁶ I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, ¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, ¹⁸ having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might ²⁰ that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.

Support

By Rev. Mike McMeniman

1. Support is essentially the process of living out the Christian experience - with both fellow believers and unbelievers.
2. Support is simply loving one another – with actions, deeds and prayers.
3. Support can be anything – time, attention, direct effort - or even support the receiver never learns about.
4. Support is usually enjoyable and comfortable. Sometimes however, the most necessary support is also the most uncomfortable. However, this is usually the most rewarding.
5. Support is essentially about connecting on a personal level in a sacrificial way.

Seven Questions to ask yourself about Support:

- 1) What is my current understanding of Support based upon?
- 2) Have I read enough Scripture (or read Scripture enough) to render an informed opinion?
- 3) Has my 'religious background' or 'support your community' ideology taught me ANYTHING different than what is in Scripture as it relates to Support?
- 4) What is my current level of Support? (i.e., how supportive a life do I live?)
- 5) Do I seek to support others or simply wait until asked? What does that say about me?
- 6) Do I 'allow' opportunities to support others go by? How do I feel about that?
- 7) What am I going to do differently now that this principle has challenged me?