

# Broad Shoulders

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Romans 15:1-3

Love is not a commodity that comes down from heaven waiting to be unwrapped. No – it is actively exercising patience with other people and with the circumstances God has ordained. It is being able to take the long-term view, knowing that nothing can happen to us without the will of our heavenly Father. Love acts and reacts without tensing up in irritation because life isn't fair, without blaming other people for what we are experiencing, and without planning how we'll get even. S. Ferguson

1 Cor 13:4-8

- forbids the abuse of power
- the strong are to bear up, to carry, to have broad shoulders for a good purpose.

Christians are to bear, not merely forbear; there must be patient submission and the endeavor to support the weakness of our brother by loving forethought and tenderness. The regard for the weak is particularly characteristic of the strong Apostle of the Gentiles. (p. 380, Griffith Thomas)

How do we accomplish this? To walk in love, consistently, fully, faithfully, by grace, in faith and hope?

1. Your broad shoulders begin with His Broad Shoulders. Verse 3.

2. The Necessity of Broad Shoulders. Verse 2.

3. Broad Shoulders are Commanded, Obligated. Verse 1.

Jonathan Edwards: “Giving up myself to God, and all that I had to God; to be for the future in no respect my own, to act as one that had no right to be himself, in any respect.”

Lord, if thou hast made us strong,  
Let us learn to help the weak;  
Bearing with each other long,  
While the good of all we seek.

May we with one heart and mind  
Seek the glory of thy name;  
In one sacred league combined,  
All our aims and hopes the same.

— C.H. Spurgeon