



## Caring Well for One Another – MT 260

It was never God's plan for us to go through the challenging and difficult times of life alone, but to care for one another by sharing with one another our burdens (as well as our blessings)? How then do we walk with others in Biblical wisdom and Christ-imitating love? To do this we need to be intentional and proactive and as we do so we will find that God often uses ordinary people in ordinary daily actions and conversations to show extraordinary love. These will be the themes and practices we will focus on in this class, aiming to develop and deepen authentic fellowship so that we can care well for one another as members of God's family, seeking to help meet the needs of others as we acknowledge our own need for such care and encouragement ourselves. Our aim will be to learn from God's Word how we can put these principles into practice, so that we can "bear one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ... to love one another as he has loved us." (Galatians 6:2; John 13:34)

Too often we try to hide our own needs because we are worried what others might think about us. Deep down we think that being needy is a sign of weakness and we prefer to appear strong. However, Jesus redefines the value of admitting and acknowledging our weakness and to learn that anything that reminds us that we are dependent on God and others is a good thing. We will learn that understanding our own need for encouragement, care and support from others is part of what qualifies us to help others in their need as well.

Even though we often hesitate to jump into someone else's complicated situation because we feel unqualified and worry we will just make things worse, we will consider together God's gracious design: the Holy Spirit gives wisdom and power to every member of the body of Christ that helps us move closer one another in compassion and care. And we will see that those who are willing to move in in love and humility can pave the way for us to make the greatest impact. To be the type of authentic community that God is calling us to be we must understand that we are both needy and needed.

### Topics include:

- ✓ How to have thoughtful conversations shaped by the wisdom of God's Word
- ✓ How to draw alongside others in prayer as they experience suffering
- ✓ How to have to develop the kind of friendships that include both encouragement and accountability

### Resources:

*Side by Side: Walking with others in wisdom and love* by Edward T. Welch (a study guide is available as a free download)

*Caring for One Another: 8 Ways to Cultivate Meaningful Relationships* by Edward T. Welch

**Facilitators: Pastors Doug Phillips and Nick Nagy**

**Room: Student Ministry Center | Cost: No Cost (Resources Optional)**