

Let Someone Lean on You

intro:

- **illus.:** **Patricia Donahue, kidney donation, in new last week**
 - 10 yr. old Brandon Shafer, polycystic kidney disease
 - **Patricia:** feel honored to be a match, figured it was divine intervention
 - sub on Paul Harvey's radio show — should be teacher of the year
 - what would schools be like if every teacher and administrator had the same attitude
 - what would churches be like if every Christian had the same attitude
 - **Brandon gave her** an iPod Nano, present, for her to listen to music while she is in the hospital
 - **What moves a person so give another person an organ — someone who's not even a family member?**
 - love, compassion, serving others, love for God
- **in the world**, most people think most people are unloving and unkind, but think they are okay
- - **stat: Most People Think Others are to Blame for the lack of Civility** (unloving, unkind spirit)
 - **89 % of Americans think** incivility is a serious problem.
 - **Who do they think' to blame:**
 - 73 % think mean-spirited political campaigns are to blame.
 - 67% think rock music is to blame.
 - 52% think talk radio is to blame.
 - 1% think their own behavior is uncivil (to blame).
- - **in the church, Christians**, we are defined by love — for God, brethren, fellow man
 - **can all improve** upon
 - **title: Let Someone Lean on You**
 - **purpose:** encourage to continue loving your brethren and neighbor, and do even better

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- **We lean on Jesus - Jesus uses His disciples as leaning posts**
 - **Is. 48:1-2** lean on the God of Israel; the LORD
 - **Matt. 11:28-30** Jesus' invitation, come to Me, weary and heavy laden — **then he uses us**
 - **illus. hymn:** *Leaning On The Everlasting Arms* (#402) - **review lyrics**
 - **Jesus has given us one another** to lean on
 - **Matt. 25:34-40** as we do to one of Jesus' disciples, we do to Him
 - **Jesus uses us as leaning posts for his disciples**
 - **we're stronger as a body when we lean on each other**
 - **Gal. 6:2** bear one another's burdens, fulfill the law of Christ.
 - **saying:** friends lean on friends — **Christians lean on Christians**
 - **illus.:** **song, *Lean on Me*** - popular across generational divides
 - **why so popular?** - possible because expresses Christian values
 - **lyrics:** Lean on me, when you're not strong And I'll be your friend I'll help you carry on For it won't be long 'Til I'm gonna need Somebody to lean on
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➤ **Love is the motivation:**

- **love is motivating force**

- **Gal. 5:6** faith working through love (**agape**).

- love is the engine of faith, motivating and driving force

- **love (Greek: *agape*) mental commitment (motive)** to do the right thing toward others

- **1 Jn. 4:8-9** we love brethren because God loves us, and them — **motive is God and His love**

- **brotherly love, kindness (Greek, *philadelphia*) *phileo* affection (motive)** we have for brethren in Christ, to do what best for them

- **Heb. 13:1** let love of the brethren continue

➤ - **brotherly love is evangelistic: world knows we are Christ's disciples**

- **love has to be based on God's word**

- **1 Jn. 5:1-4** love brethren / saved, love God / keep commandments — **love God, love brethren - hate brethren, hate God - not keep God's commands ' hate God & brethren**

- **Jn. 14:15** love Jesus, keep My commandments. — **lawless love is hatred**

- **when the world witnesses our love for one another, it sends a good message (evangelistic)**

- **Jn. 13:35** know that we are Jesus' disciples, love

- **illus.:** story of Alvin and Rebecca Jones

- **illus.:** story of uncle, Howard, wife died cancer, dated a woman, went to church, immediately she knew she was among God's people because of the warmth and love and spiritual atmosphere, converted

➤ **Application: What can you do to let someone lean on you** — bear another's burden?

- **note: not everyone can do everything** - here are just a few suggestions

- **be kind to someone** - do something for someone they don't deserve

- **1 Cor. 13:4** Love is patient, kind. . . .

- **Eph. 4:32** be kind, tender-hearted, forgiving each other

- **illus.:** Beth and I, FC bookstore, wrong place, student told then followed to make sure we made it

- **be a sounding board (ear)** - not to be a gossip but an advisor — all of us need to talk to someone

- **Ja. 1:19b** quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger;

- **illus.:** President Bush, press conference, important that he listen and seek counsel

- **illus.:** myself, important decisions, talk to a few people whom I trust in that area, seek counsel

- **be a friend to the lonely:** call and visit the sick and shut-in / send a card, only takes a few minutes

- **illus.:** couple who came to hospital to see me, 15 year old, still remember

- **illus.:** moving us here, meals, visits, cards, calls - testimony

- **be at church early and stay late** to visit, encourage one another, be a friend

- **illus.:** when tell others about congregation, tell about all the people who visit after church - earlier? (ha)

- **reach out to those who** are having a tough time - call, visit, card, talk to at church, go to lunch, talk at home

- **illus.:** be an encourager, not a discourager — be like Barnabas (Son of Encouragement)

- **lay down your life for the brethren**

- **1 Jn. 3:16** we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. — our attitude? — our motto, brotherly love — our paradigm

- **illus.:** **A Friend Refuses to Let Go of Her Friend** — biking, cat attacks, friend not let go (USA Today, 1-09-04)

- imagine fighting with a mountain lion for your friend's life

➤ **Life is short: (call to action)**

- **illus.:** earthquake in the middle of the night, thought catastrophic event or end of the world

- it was the dog

- **James 4:13-15** vapor, life short, not expect to die (Aunt Wanda), What's important in life?

➤ **Summary / Exhortation:**

- **1 Th. 3:12-13** increase and abound in love for one another

- **Let Someone Lean on You** — be a leaning post for someone

- **lift someone's load**, lighten their load, help them along their way (heaven)

- **be as serious** about brother love as work and earning a living — make lists, follow through

- **get out the message to the world** - by the way you treat your brethren, and your neighbors

Audio sermon notes: this is an abbreviated outline you can use to present this lesson

- ➤ denotes where to proceed to the next PowerPoint slide.
- All Scriptures are NASB, unless otherwise noted.
- Sermon recorded 4/16/2006, Church of Christ, South Livingston Ave. In Lutz, FL, Allan McNabb, BibleStudyGuide.org.