



Grace Life Church
of Dallas

The doctrines of grace, the life of the Spirit, to the glory of God

Colossians 3:13

Bearing With & Forgiving Each Other

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Colossians 3:12-14

12 Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, 13 bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. 14 And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

Colossians 3:15-17

15 And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. 17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Living in Light of God's Grace

V13 *bearing with one another*

- Our bearing with one another flows out of our revelation of God's grace and love upon us (v12)
- **Ephesians 4:2** *with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love*
- Where we find humble/lowly hearts we find "*bearing with one another*"
- **Bearing**: put up with, endure, suffer
- "Forbearance (another way of saying "bearing with one another in love") is basically a synonym for patience, but with a twist. Forbearance is patience under provocation; whereas patience is waiting for others to mature in grace, forbearance is being patient when that immaturity is directed at you."-Paul Tripp
- **1 Corinthians 4:12** *we labor, working with our own hands. When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we **endure***
- If you struggle with being patient with the immature or bearing with one another, it is because you have a high view of self and a low view of God's grace upon your life.

*And if one has complaint against another,
forgiving each other;*

- *Complaint*: grievance, a fault, a quarrel
 - How do you respond when you have a quarrel?
- How does Paul tell us to respond to complaints?
 - *Forgiving each other*: to give grace, to pardon, to restore another
 - If forgiveness just happened in us, we wouldn't need the command. What is the natural response? Revenge
 - **Romans 12:17** *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. 19 Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord."*

Forgiving each other

Forgiveness or revenge is a heart issue: How does Paul motivate and empower us to forgive?

As the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive

- Forgiveness towards others is NOT an option
- Forgiveness is not a moral goal, but a redemptive gift of the cross
- Our forgiveness of others (or lack thereof) is a direct reflection of our understanding of God's forgiveness towards us
- When we withhold forgiveness we minimize the grace of God
- Paul is calling us to gospel-centered relationships
 - Our treatment/response towards others is not based on how they treat us, but rather on how God treated me in the gospel
 - The vertical determines the horizontal

Forgiving each other, as the Lord has forgiven you

How has the Lord forgiven us? **Matthew 18:21-35**

- Consider our unpayable debt to God (and it's offense to Him) compared to our brother/sisters debt to us
- Consider how the Lord gracious & completely forgave our debt at His expense (Crucifixion of the Lord Jesus Christ)
- To live, as a style of life in un-forgiveness of heart (v35) may demonstrate you have not experienced the forgiveness of God in Christ

In the gospel God chooses to not remember your sin (Heb 8:12, 10:17, Jer 31:34, Micah 7:19). Are you remembering and bringing up others sins again? Do you treat them differently based on previous sins? What if God did that to you?

In the gospel, God pursued you (He took action first)

- **Matthew 5:23-24** *So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, 24leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.*
- **Matthew 18:15** *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.*

Forgiving each other, as the Lord has forgiven you

Is there anyone here today that has offended you (you have a complaint against) but you have not sought reconciliation with?

- Are you justifying your bitterness and un-forgiveness?
- Don't wait, considering the forgiveness of the Lord towards you in Jesus Christ, go and seek to be reconciled with a heart that is pursuing peace, as long as it depends upon you.

We must be continually ready to forgive other from our hearts (again & again)

Matthew 18:21-22 *Then Peter came up and said to him, "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?"*

22 Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times.

In the gospel God not only forgives us of our sin in the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ, but He enables us to forgive one another (Christ now lives in me)