



Sermon Discussion Guide for Groups

"Bear With One Another" | One Another series

Preached by Dr. Andrew Arndt
19 January 2025

"Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him."

C O L O S S I A N S 3 : 1 0 , N L T

Summary

The sermon this weekend emphasized the transformative power of the Church as a community where God's divine life is visibly active, highlighting the practices of "bearing with" and "forgiving" as essential to our ability to maintain the unity God longs for us to have.

Drawing from Colossians 3, where Paul instructs believers to clothe themselves with virtues such as compassion, kindness, and patience, and to forgive as the Lord forgave them, the sermon challenged us to engage in humility and prayer as means to endure in community, reflecting the unconditional forgiveness of God.

Opening Prayer

Heavenly Father, here we are, imperfect but earnest in our desire to live life like Jesus did. We come before you with open hearts, ready to receive your Word, your counsel, more and more of your grace. We ask for your presence to fill this space and for your Spirit to guide our thoughts, our discussion, and the steps we take from here.

Help us to be open to what you want us to learn today, and may we be transformed by your love and grace. Amen.

Getting Going

How do you feel about the fact that no matter how hard we try and how diligently we work at being perfect, we all make mistakes?

Discussion Questions

1. What does it mean to you that the Church is to be a place where God's "divine life" is active? What are some elements you've observed along the way of this activity?
2. How have you personally experienced the transition from the "old self" to the "new self" in Christ?
3. Why do you think Paul emphasizes bearing with and forgiving one another in the church?
4. Describe a time when you had to "bear with" someone. What were the circumstances involved, and how did you handle them? What role did prayer play in the overall dynamic? What became of the situation?
5. Why is it important to forgive as the Lord forgave us, and what challenges do you suspect you'll face in doing so?

Making It Personal

Identify one relationship where you need to practice forgiveness or endurance. Take a step toward reconciliation, whether through prayer, a conversation, or an act of kindness.

Key Takeaways

- › The church is a community where God's divine life is visibly active.
- › Bearing with and forgiving one another are crucial for unity and divine life flow.
- › Humility and prayer are essential in enduring and forgiving others.
- › Forgiveness should be unconditional and reflect God's forgiveness toward us.
- › Maintaining healthy relationships in the church requires ongoing effort and grace.

Ending Prayer

Lord, we thank you for the gift of community and the opportunity to grow together in your love. Help us to bear with and forgive one another as you have forgiven us so that your peace and unity can reign in our hearts and in our church. Guide us as we apply what we've learned today in our lives. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Key Passage | Colossians 3:5-17

“So put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you. Have nothing to do with sexual immorality, impurity, lust, and evil desires. Don’t be greedy, for a greedy person is an idolater, worshiping the things of this world. Because of these sins, the anger of God is coming. You used to do these things when your life was still part of this world. But now is the time to get rid of anger, rage, malicious behavior, slander, and dirty language. Don’t lie to each other, for you have stripped off your old sinful nature and all its wicked deeds. Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him. In this new life, it doesn’t matter if you are a Jew or a Gentile, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbaric, uncivilized, slave, or free. Christ is all that matters, and he lives in all of us.

“Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Make allowance for each other’s faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony. And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful.

“Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives. Teach and counsel each other with all the wisdom he gives. Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with thankful hearts. And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father.” (NLT)

Passages for Further Study

- Matthew 18:15-20
- Matthew 7:1-2
- Luke 17:1
- Psalm 146:1-2