

Sermon Title: Loving the Unlovable

Scripture: Colossians 3:12-17

Speaker: Brad Bush



Mark 12:30-31

30 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' 31 The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."

Jesus also said in Luke 6:27-28: "But I say to you who hear, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you"

Love Jesus, Love Others, and Live With Purpose

Colossians 3:12-15 ESV

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. 15 And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.

The goal is NOT to try and change that person. We do not have the power to do that. Our goal always needs to be to point that person to Jesus. Jesus is the one, the only one with the power to transform a life.

Colossians 3:12 ESV

12 Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience...

Action Step #1: *We bear with one another*

Colossians 3:13 ESV

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.

Action Step #2: *We forgive each other*

Colossians 3:13 ESV

13 'if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so also you must forgive'

Ephesians 4:32 ESV

Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

Matthew 6:14-15 ESV

14 For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, 15 but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

A lack of forgiveness leads to:

- ***broken fellowship with God***
- ***the loss of God's power in your life***
- ***bitterness and anger***
- ***Satan gains a foothold in your life***

Action Step #3: *We let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts*

Colossians 3:15 ESV

15 And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body.

Action Step #4: *Be thankful*

Colossians 3:15 ESV

...and be thankful

Action Step #5: *Put on Love*

Colossians 3:14 ESV

14 and above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

The next time you encounter that person God has put in your life that is hard to love. Don't try to change them, just show them Jesus.

Bear with them

Forgive them

Let Christ and His peace rule in you

Be thankful

Love them

Do this and you will find that the attitude of your heart is compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.

Open in Prayer

Group Discussion Questions:

1. Think of a time when you had a critical spirit towards someone else. What emotions or attitudes did you experience?

2. Read Luke 6:27-28. Why do you think loving God and others in this way proves so challenging?

3. Read Colossians 3:12-17. What seems most challenging for you to apply from this passage?

4. In the message, Brad relates living out Colossians 3 with wearing a team jersey. How might your life look different if you were intentional about putting on the jersey of team Jesus?

5. What is the difference between “trying to change someone” vs. “pointing someone to Jesus?”

6. What are some practical ways we can point others to Christ?

7. Which one of the 5 action steps Brad shared in the message resonates with you the most?
 - Bear with them
 - Forgive them
 - Let the Peace of Christ rule
 - Be thankful
 - Love them

Why?

8. From the Christ-centered attitudes and actions listed in Colossians 3:12-17, which one is God asking you to trust Him with most this week?

Close in prayer