

The One Another Life – A Gospel Community

Week 4 – Forgive One Another
(Colossians 3:12-14)

OPENING QUESTION

What do you do when someone has genuinely wronged you?

KEY VERSE

“Bear with one another and forgive one another if anyone has a grievance against another. Just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you are also to forgive.” - Colossians 3:13

THE INSTRUCTION

1. Remember who you are before **you deal with what they did**.

“Therefore, as God’s chosen ones, holy and dearly loved...” -Col 3:12a

What is true: Christian forgiveness begins with **remembering who we are in Christ**. Our identity is not ultimately determined by what someone has done to us. In Christ, believers are chosen, holy, and dearly loved.

What to do: Do not let another person’s offense **become the controlling identity of your life**. Remember who you are in Christ before deciding how you will respond to what they did.

2. Put on the **Character of Christ toward difficult people**.

“Put on compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience...” – Col 3:12b

What is true: The new life in Christ produces **a new way of treating people**, especially when relationships become difficult.

Compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience are not merely attitudes for easy relationships. We need them because people will disappoint, frustrate, and sometimes sin against us.

What to do: Ask yourself what Christ is calling you to **“put on” in this relationship**. Refuse to return to the old ‘clothes’ of anger, malice, harshness, slander, or bitterness. Am I responding with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience—or am I falling back into anger, harshness, and bitterness?”

3. Forgive because **the Lord has forgiven you**.

“Bear with one another and forgive one another if anyone has a grievance against another. Just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you are also to forgive.” - Colossians 3:13

What is true: Our forgiveness of others flows directly from **the forgiveness we have received from the Lord.**

Christian forgiveness does not require pretending the offense never happened, erasing the memory, immediately restoring trust, or removing every consequence. But it does mean letting go of the debt so that you no longer keep holding the offense against the person as a weapon of bitterness, vengeance, or continued punishment.

What to do: Refuse to hold **offenses over others as a weapon.** Where repentance and reconciliation are possible, pursue them. Where trust has been damaged, allow it to be rebuilt wisely without nurturing bitterness. Remember, love covers a multitude of sins.

4. Above everything else, **put on love.**

“Above all, put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity.” – Col 3:14

What is true: Love binds together **the character and relationships of Christ’s people.** Love does not ignore sin. It may confront, establish boundaries, or call for repentance. But it seeks the genuine good of the other person rather than keeping them under permanent condemnation.

What to do: Ask, “*What would Christlike love **require of me toward this person now?***” It may require forgiveness, a difficult conversation, refusing to gossip, rebuilding trust, or confronting sin with grace and truth.

THE MAIN IDEA

Main Idea: God’s chosen people are to put on compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, forgiveness, and above all love because they have been forgiven by the Lord.

LOOK TO CHRIST

Our forgiveness of others begins with Christ’s forgiveness of us. The cross shows us both how serious sin is and how great God’s grace is. Jesus did not pretend our sin did not matter; He bore its judgment in our place. And because the Lord has forgiven us at such great cost, we are called to extend that same grace toward others. **The cross is both the ground and the pattern of Christian forgiveness: we forgive because we have been forgiven, and we learn what forgiveness looks like by looking to Christ.**

APPLICATION

1. Is there someone whose offense you are still holding over them?
2. Are you confusing forgiveness with pretending nothing happened?
3. Are you waiting until you ‘*feel*’ like forgiving?
4. Have you forgotten how much Christ has forgiven you?
5. Is there a conversation you need to have? Someone may not even know how deeply they hurt you.