

Dealing With Differences

Sichuan, 2008

How does Jesus enable drastically different people to get along in close proximity and intimate relationships? If the Bible can help us in this, it would have a lot of application, especially in your work.

A Chosen People

We are his “eklektos”

A term for ancient philosophers that didn’t fit in (not simply Stoics, or Hedonists, for example)

Context: vs. 11 – “Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.”

Brief history of the ancient city Colossae

“Eclectic” people might not get along easily or understand each other

Holy and beloved

A Called People

Called into one body

The commands indicate something which needs to be corrected

Compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, patience... love

Bearing with “one another”

Be patient, bearing with one another in love (Eph. 4:2)

... forgiving each other (Eph. 4:32)

Stop passing judgment on one another (Rom. 14:13)

A Christian People

Christ’s forgiveness (vs. 13)

Forgiven people forgive

Christ’s word (vs. 16)

Everyone has something to offer

Christ’s peace (vs. 15)

Literally, let the peace of Christ be your arbiter. A person who settles a dispute or has ultimate authority in a matter.

Christ’s name (vs. 17)

Everyone has the same goal.

Questions for Personal Study

1. How do people’s differences create the need for patience, forgiveness, and bearing with one another?
2. How is the body of Christ (the church) an “eclectic” group of people?
3. How does Christ help us forgive one another?
4. Is there anyone that you are called to “bear with?” How do you do that?