



**Message Three ... Bear With One Another**  
*Pastor Mike Chapman*

*Ephesians 4:1-3, I, therefore, the prisoner for the Lord, urge you to live worthily of the calling with which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.* NET

*Colossians 3:12-13, Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with a heart of mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if someone happens to have a complaint against anyone else. Just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also forgive others.* NET

These verses, written by Paul from imprisonment in Rome, give us insight into God's way of dealing with "relational friction" that can occur among followers of Christ. Let's unpack them.

## **The Meaning**

The reason we are called to bear with one another is that there is **something to bear**.

Why is there relational tension among Christians?

1. **Our sinful nature.**
2. **Astonishing diversity among us.**

3. **Our imagination and assumptions**

4. **The reality of spiritual warfare**

Forbearance means to have **self-control** under provocation.

## **The Virtues**

Forbearance is a fruit of the seeds of five key spiritual virtues.

1. **Humility**

An awareness of your own shortcomings and of where your strength comes from.

2. **Kindness**

Your neighbor's good is as important to you as your own.

3. **Meekness**

Power under control

4. **Patience (Longsuffering)**

Bearing insult without bitterness

5. **Love (agape)**

Love "in spite of"

## **The Effort**

This is no small issue to Paul.

He calls on Christians to **make every effort**.

To live in a manner that is worthy of our calling, is to live in unity with the people of God.

Paul said we are to live **worthy of the calling**.

We are to live in the **bond** of peace.

Jesus prayed for the unity God's people.

*John 17:20-23, I pray that all who will believe in me will continue to have unity in the way that you, Father, are in me and I am in you. I pray that they may be united with us so that the world will believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me. I did this so that they are united in the same way we are. I in them, and you are in me. So they are completely united. In this way the world knows that you have sent me and that you have loved them in the same way you have loved me. <sup>GW</sup>*