

WELCOME TO



BELL CREEK

Community Church



MARCH 8, 2026

**FOLLOWING JESUS IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS –
WHAT MUST LIVE
COLOSSIANS 3:12–17**

SERMON BY: PASTOR FRED WRIGHT

CURRENT SERMON SERIES:
FOLLOW – OUR JOURNEY WITH JESUS

**FOLLOWING JESUS IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS –
WHAT MUST LIVE
COLOSSIANS 3:12–17**

We Belong to Christ, So We are Called to Be Like Him

Because We are Christ's Body, We Must Bear with, and Forgive One Another

The Love of Christ Must Reign in Our Hearts and Our Church

FOR NEXT WEEK

Read Matthew 18:16-20, and 2 Timothy 2:1-10.

**DAILY CHRONOLOGICAL
BIBLE READING**

MARCH 8: NUMBERS 31-32
MARCH 9: NUMBERS 33-34
MARCH 10: NUMBERS 35-36
MARCH 11: DEUTERONOMY 1-2
MARCH 12: DEUTERONOMY 5-7
MARCH 13: DEUTERONOMY 8-10
MARCH 14: DEUTERONOMY 11-13

UPCOMING AT THE CREEK

YOUNG ADULT GATHERING

A new Young Adult group is starting for adults 18-30 years old! Our first gathering will be TODAY, after second service in the Prayer Room.

MEMBERSHIP

Our Membership Class continues today in the Prayer Room during both services. Bell Creek's Elders will be available for interviews. If you are interested in more information, please contact Pastor Dylan (dylan@bellcreek.org).

NEW TESTAMENT THEOLOGY CLASS

Our New Testament Theology Class continues tonight at 6:00 PM in the Prayer Room. Please join us as we continue our study in the Apocalypse of John.

HOMESCHOOL MEET UP

If you homeschool, or are interested in homeschooling, you are invited to our monthly Homeschool Meet Up on Wednesday, March 11, from 10:00-11:30 AM in Bell Creek's gym. Come for support, curriculum help/swap/sale, or to encourage other homeschool moms. Children are welcome, but please do not bring food to the event. For more information, please contact Rachel Nash (rachel@bellcreek.org).

AS THEY GO PRAYER MEETING

Join other parents of adult children for prayer and fellowship in the Prayer Room on Saturday, March 14, from 9:00-10:00 AM. Please reach out to Kelly Salter (ksalter1122@gmail.com) if you have questions.

GAMES, GRUB & GATHERING

Game Night will be Saturday, March 14 from 6:00-8:30 PM in the gym. This is an opportunity to meet new friends, build relationships, and have fun! Come on your own, bring a friend, or your entire family. Don't forget to bring a dish to pass! No game play is required. Sign up after service in the gym.

SPECIAL SUPPORT NEEDS PRAYER MEETING

Join us for a time of discussion and prayer for parents who have special support needs with family members who have underlying challenges that can limit the family's church attendance and involvement. We will meet on Saturday, March 21 from 9:00-10:00 AM in the Prayer Room. If you have questions, please contact Mike Henry (mhenry045@gmail.com).

RUMMAGE SALE

Save the date for MomCo's Semi-Annual Rummage Sale on Saturday, April 18. More details to come!

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

PRAYER MEETINGS

WEDNESDAYS 6:30 - 7:30 PM

FRIDAYS 12 NOON

PRE-TEEN & MIDDLE SCHOOL BIBLE STUDY

WEDNESDAYS 6:30 - 7:45 PM

SUNDAYS AFTER WORSHIP

2ND SERVICE

AWANA

WEDNESDAYS 6:30 - 7:45 PM

SEPTEMBER-MAY

HIGH SCHOOL BIBLE STUDY

SUNDAYS 11:00 AM

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES
AND EVENTS AT BELLCREEK.ORG

OUR MISSION

MATTHEW 22:37-40

He said to him, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the greatest commandment. The second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the law and prophets depend on these two commandments."

MATTHEW 28:19-20

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember that I am with you always to the end of the age.

STAY CONNECTED

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU HERE!

WWW.BELLCREEK.ORG/CONTACT-US

FOLLOW US!



BELL CREEK
Community Church

30000 FIVE MILE RD.
LIVONIA, MI 48154

Sunday, March 8, 2060

Sermon Series: Follow: Our Journey with Jesus

This Week: Following Jesus in Our Relationships - What Must Live (Colossians 3:12-17)

Scripture Reading:

Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. (Ephesians 4:29-32, ESV)

We Belong to Christ, So We are Called to Be Like Him

12 Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. (Colossians 3:12, ESV)

Look at who we are in Christ! We are chosen (pursued and selected by God). We are holy (pure, set apart, belonging to God, consecrated to Him and His purposes). We are beloved (those who are in the state of being loved by God!).

So, because that is who we are in Christ, we are called to be like Him.

Is Jesus compassionate? Matthew 9:36 "When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd."

Is Jesus kind? Titus 3:4-5 "But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us."

Is Jesus humble and meek? Matthew 11:29 "Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart."

Is Jesus patient? 1 Timothy 1:16 "But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life."

Important note: This isn't about being a nice person. It's much deeper than that. This is about being transformed by the Holy Spirit into people who truly resemble Jesus. What Paul is describing is a supernatural work of the Gospel, a deep renovation of the heart. In Christ we are new creations, and the Spirit is actively reshaping us so that our character begins to reflect His. And because this transformation is the work of God's grace in us, we are not only called to live this way, we are actually able to live these things out.

Because We are Christ's Body, We Must Bear with, and Forgive One Another

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.

Paul says, “Forgive each other, as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.” But what does that actually mean? How do Christians forgive?

We’re going to talk about forgiveness. Forgiveness is not optional for followers of Jesus. Paul says plainly: “Forgive each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.” (Colossians 3:13, ESV)

But first, an important word about wisdom. Forgiveness and trust are not the same thing, and reconciliation may take time. The book of Proverbs helps us understand why. It describes three kinds of people: the wise, the foolish, and the wicked.

A wise person may sin against you, but when you address it with them, they listen, repent, and begin working toward reconciliation. Trust can grow again because their heart is responsive.

A fool, however, does not want to hear correction. Proverbs repeatedly says that fools despise instruction. They deny the wrong, minimize it, or blame others. In those cases forgiveness is still required, but rebuilding trust is difficult until they are willing to listen.

And then there is the wicked person. The wicked do not simply resist correction, they continue to harm. They sin, and when confronted, they persist in it. Forgiveness must still be extended in our hearts, but wisdom requires appropriate boundaries and protection.

Back to our question! Paul says, “Forgive each other, as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.” But what does that actually mean? How do Christians forgive?

How to Forgive (Gospel-Centered) For these practicalities, I’m leaning on Tim Keller’s book, “Forgive.” I highly recommend it.

1. Remember the Cost of Your Forgiveness

Forgiveness always costs someone. When someone sins against you, a debt is created. Our instinct is to make the other person pay for that debt through anger, coldness, gossip, or revenge. But the Gospel reminds us that Jesus paid our debt on the cross. God did not ignore our sins; He absorbed the cost Himself. When we forgive, we are extending the same grace we have received.

2. Release Your Right to Revenge

To forgive is to give up the right to make the other person pay. It does not mean pretending the wrong didn’t happen. It means naming the wrong honestly but refusing personal payback. Instead of making them suffer until things feel “even,” you entrust justice to God and refuse retaliation.

3. Absorb the Cost Instead of Returning the Hurt

Forgiveness always involves suffering. Either you make the other person suffer for the wrong, or you absorb the pain yourself. Christian forgiveness chooses the second path. That means refusing to:

Attack them directly, tear them down to others through gossip or slander, or nurture bitterness in your heart. Instead, you bear the cost and pray for their good.

4. Forgive From the Heart, Even Before Reconciliation

Forgiveness begins internally. We must forgive even if the other person never apologizes. Reconciliation and restored trust require repentance, but forgiveness does not wait for that. It begins when we surrender bitterness and choose mercy.

5. Draw Strength From the Gospel

Only the Gospel of Jesus provides us with the resources that allow us to forgive others:

The Gospel gives us humility: We know we are sinners saved by grace, so we can be humble.

The Gospel gives us security: We know we are deeply loved and fully forgiven in Christ, so we can love and forgive.

Because we have received such great love and mercy from Jesus, we must extend forgiveness to others.

So, Christian forgiveness means remembering the Gospel (we are sinners saved by the grace of Jesus), releasing our right to revenge, absorbing the debt instead of returning harm, extending mercy from the heart, and seeking reconciliation when possible.

Question: Have you experienced the forgiveness that makes this kind of life possible?

The gospel says that our greatest debt, our sin against God, was paid by Jesus on the cross. When we come to Him in repentance and faith, He forgives us completely and gives us a new heart. The life described in this passage begins when we receive that grace. Will you come to Christ and receive His forgiveness today?

Some of you hear this passage and immediately think of someone who has hurt you deeply.

Question: Are you willing to bring that hurt to Jesus and ask Him to help you forgive?

Forgiveness doesn't mean pretending the wrong didn't happen, and it doesn't mean trust must be instantly granted to someone who's wronged you. But it does mean releasing the bitterness and entrusting justice to God. Jesus, who carried your sins on the cross, loves you and will also come alongside you to bind your wounds and lead you to healing.

The Love of Christ Must Reign in Our Hearts and Our Church

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.

Paul says, “put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.” What is love? The word used for love here is *agape* and it is the kind of love that is willing to sacrifice whatever is necessary for the other person’s good, even to the point of giving up oneself. It is the love we see in Jesus, who loved us and gave Himself for us.

Paul then says, “Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.” I have often heard this verse used to describe the peace that helps us in our personal battle with anxiety. And certainly, God does give His people peace in the midst of anxiety when we trust Him. That is exactly what we are taught in Philippians 4:4–7.

But that is not Paul’s main point here in Colossians 3:15! Here, Paul is talking about the peace that King Jesus expects within His Church. Jesus calls His redeemed people to put to death what is earthly in us. Remember that ugly list from the beginning of Colossians? Sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, covetousness, anger, wrath, malice, slander, obscene talk, and lies. And Jesus calls us to put on what reflects His own character: compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, patience, and love.

When the love of Christ rules in our hearts, the peace of Christ becomes precious to us. We begin to care deeply about the unity and harmony of Christ’s people. We become committed to protecting and preserving the peace of our church. That means we will often choose to maintain the peace of Christ rather than stirring up conflict over every irritation or personal grievance.

Now, this does not mean ignoring sin or excusing wrongdoing. God forbid! Scripture commands us to deal with sin truthfully and lovingly. But it does mean recognizing how valuable the peace of the Church truly is. The Church is the place where God’s people worship together, pray together, grow together, cry and rejoice together, and serve together. When the peace of Christ rules among us, the Body of Christ flourishes. And that is a witness to our neighbors, city, and world that draws people to Jesus.

Question: Are we helping protect the precious peace of Christ in this church, or harming it? Do our words and actions promote unity, patience, and forgiveness? Or do they stir up resentment, criticism, and conflict? Followers of Jesus are commanded to allow the Lord’s peace to rule in His church. This week, how can we help preserve and strengthen the grace of Jesus, the love of the Father, and the unity of the Holy Spirit in this place?

BENEDICTION:

And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. (Colossians 3:14–15, ESV).



Following Jesus in Our Relationships - What Must Live

1. What did you think of the sermon "Following Jesus in Our Relationships - What Must Live"?

2. Colossians 3:12 describes believers as chosen, holy, and beloved. How should remembering who you are in Christ shape the way you treat others this week?

3. Paul calls believers to "put on" compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Which of these qualities do you most need the Holy Spirit to grow in your life right now? Why?

4. Colossians 3:13 says we must forgive "as the Lord has forgiven you." Is there someone you need to forgive, release to God, or begin praying for today? What step could you take toward that?

5. Paul tells believers to let the peace of Christ rule in their hearts and in the church. In your relationships this week (family, church, work, friends), how can you actively promote unity, patience, and peace?

