

LIFE ON PURPOSE– How to Have Better Relationships– Week 3

Colossians 1:1-2, 4 (NIV)

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, To God's holy people in Colossae, the faithful brothers and sisters in Christ...because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all God's people...

Spiritual maturity is not about how much or what you know—it's about the health of your relationships.

Spiritual maturity is evident when we have healthy relationships in our lives.

“Crowded loneliness”– “I’m around people, but no one sees me, no one really knows me, no one cares about me.”

- Avg. American spends 5 hours/day on their phone which equals 2.5 months of the year!

Colossians 3:12-14 (NIV)

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, **clothe yourselves** with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and Patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. **Forgive as the Lord forgave you.** And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

3 Greek Words to Describe Love:

- Eros—Romantic love
- Philos—Friendship/brotherly love
- Agape ἀγάπη—Sacrificial love that seeks the highest good of others; unconditional love; the highest form of love; **God's love**

How Can We Be More Purposeful in Our Relationships?

1) We “put on” love whether we feel like it or not.

WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE TO BE CLOSE TO GOD:

Compassion – Deep emotional response to another person’s suffering
Exodus 34:6 (NIV) – “the compassionate and gracious God”

Kindness – Moral goodness

Titus 3:4-7 (NIV) – “when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared”

Humility – Thinking of yourself less

Matthew 11:29 (NIV) – “I am gentle and humble in heart”

Gentleness – Meek disposition...power under restraint

Psalms 18:35 (ESV) – “Your gentleness made me great”

Patience – Steadfast perseverance

2Peter 3:9 (NIV) – “He is patient with you”

2) We recognize our biggest barrier when we “look in the mirror.”

3) We “travel light” by forgiving.

Forgiveness is not:

Approval of wrongdoing

An invitation to abuse

Something the other person has earned or deserves

Dependent on reconciliation

Forgiveness is:

The conscious choice to give up your right to make the other person pay because you trust God to make things right.

“To be a Christian means to forgive the inexcusable because God has forgiven the inexcusable in you.” — C.S. Lewis