

Rooted in Christ – A Study of Colossians—Lesson 15

Women of Grace | GraceLife Church

¹²So, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience; ¹³bearing with one another, and graciously forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone, just as the Lord graciously forgave you, so also should you. ¹⁴Above all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity.

--Colossians 3:12-14

Day 1—Verse 12

So, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience; --Colossians 3:12

1. Paul opens up the verse with “so.” Just like therefore, what does the “so” point back to?

2. What does it mean that we are the elect of God?

3. Find at least one other verse on God's choosing of His elect.

4. What two words are used to describe the elect of God?
 - a. Is this how you view yourself?

5. What does 1 Peter 1:15-16 say about being holy?

6. In light of the fact that we still sin, how are we holy?

7. What does it mean that you are God's beloved?

8. How does/can God's choosing of you and setting His love upon you motivate a greater pursuit of holiness?

Day 2—Verse 12

So, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience; --Colossians 3:12

1. How do we put on compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience?

2. Define:

a. Compassion

b. Kindness

c. Humility

d. Gentleness

e. Patience

3. Find one or more verses that explain God with these virtues:

a. Compassion

b. Kindness

c. Humility

d. Gentleness

e. Patience

4. How does looking at all these qualities of God help you to live them out in your own life?

5. What is the difference between kindness and niceness?

6. Why do you think that our world considers humility a negative thing?

Heart check:

- Are you lacking in compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, or patience? What should you do to grow in these areas?

Day 3—Verse 13

bearing with one another, and graciously forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone, just as the Lord graciously forgave you, so also should you.
--Colossians 3:13

1. What does it mean to bear with one another?

2. How is bearing with one another different from bearing one another's burdens?

3. Read 1 Peter 4:8. What does this verse teach us about bearing with one another?
 - a. How is this a picture of Christlikeness?

4. What does Biblical forgiveness look like?

5. Why are we to forgive others?

6. According to this verse, is there anyone that we are allowed to not forgive?

7. Are we ever to offer forgiveness on behalf of others? (e.g.: After a mass shooting that has not directly affected us, saying “we forgive the shooter.”)

8. What does forgiveness look like when the one who wronged you refuses to repent?

Heart check:

- We are called to bear with one another. How does the realization that if you are to bear with others, then for someone else you are the person that they have to bear with, help you to fulfill this command?

- How can the thought that there is no sin that you could commit against the Lord that would cause Him to stop bearing with you help you to bear with others?

Day 4—Verse 13

bearing with one another, and graciously forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone, just as the Lord graciously forgave you, so also should you.
--Colossians 3:13

1. What do these passages teach us about forgiveness?

a. Matthew 6:14-15

b. Mark 11:25-26

c. Luke 17:3-4

d. Luke 23:34

e. Ephesians 4:32

2. When are the most difficult times to forgive?

- a. Have you ever withheld forgiveness to make someone pay, even just for a little while? What is it called when you are making the other person pay for their sin? How is this antithetical to the gospel and God’s love towards you in Christ?
3. Read Matthew 18:21-35. What does this passage teach us about forgiveness?
4. What does “whoever has a complaint against anyone” mean?
5. How are we not to complain about one another?
 - a. How does gossip and slander fall into complaints about others?
 - b. How does a lack of love mingled with pride result in complaining?

6. How are we to respond when the complaining is directed at us?
 - a. When someone repeatedly or grossly sins against us, how can Genesis 50:19-20 be an encouragement to us?

7. Find verses in Scripture that tell you about God's forgiveness.
 - a. How do these verses help you to forgive others?

Heart Check:

- Is there anyone whom you are currently harboring unforgiveness towards? Who are you truly harming when you refuse to forgive?
- When someone sins against you and asks for forgiveness but you refuse it, do you see this as sinful? How have you now become the one who is sinning against another and against God?
- What must you do if the above questions are true of you?

Day 5—Verse 14

Above all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity. --Colossians 3:14

1. What is the virtue in this verse that ties all the other virtues together?

2. Why is love the perfect bond of unity?

3. How does the Bible define love?
 - a. How does the world define love?

 - b. What are the main differences between these two definitions?

4. What do these verses teach us about the love of God for us?
 - a. Psalm 86:15

b. Zephaniah 3:17

c. John 3:16

d. Romans 5:8

e. 1 John 4:8

f. 1 John 4:19

5. How does a lack of love break the bonds of unity and cause division?

6. Would you agree with the statement that “The proof of our salvation is in our interactions with others”? Why or why not?

7. From James 2:1-9, what is one way that we can destroy our bond of unity?

- a. How is showing favoritism ultimately a lack of love?
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8. What are some practical ways that we as the women of GraceLife can put on love?

Heart check:

- Are you discriminating against others?
- We are given three commands here: endure, forgive, and love. Which one do you struggle with the most? How can putting on love help the other virtues to fall into place? Pray and ask God to work in your heart in this area.
- Read 1 Corinthians 13. How are you doing in your love towards others?

Dig Deeper:

For further study on forgiveness: <https://www.chapellibrary.org/book/forgfg/forgiveness>
<https://www.chapellibrary.org/book/forg/forgiveness-rylejohnc>