

Bear With / Forgive One Another

I. God's Design for Community (Romans 12: 4-5)

1. One in Christ

- Christ is the head
- WE are the body
 - Unified as ONE under Christ
 - All with distinct and different roles and functions.

2. Gospel Community (Col 3:12-15)

- Bearing with One Another (vs 13)
- To Bear: - (common) To tolerate something, usually something that you dislike
- To Bear: - (Biblical) To carry the weight of; support
 - (Biblical) To endure (an ordeal or difficulty)

3. Our Call (Col 4:16)

- I NEED you to Bear with me
- I NEED you to carry the weight when it gets too heavy
- I NEED you to endure with me. Don't give up on me when I get annoying!

**As members of the body of Christ, we are called to endure;
To carry the weight of, and support each other.**

II. Failure to Bear with One Another

1. Christian Annoyance

- Why Don't we bear with one another
- Why are we so quick to get annoyed?
 - Selfishness, Forgetfulness, Pride

2. When we DON'T Bear with one another...

- We hurt each other
- We hurt ourselves
- We hurt our witness (John 13:35)

3. Benefits of Bearing with One Another (Col 3:10) (Col 4:1-2)

- Being renewed
- Making deposits of Grace that we get to draw from
- The Body Grows!

III. Forgiving One Another (Col 3:13)

1. Forgiveness is hard
2. Power to forgive comes from God (Eph 3:20)
 - to err is human, to forgive is divine
 - God's Forbearance and Forgiveness with us is a character quality we enjoy and we get to give that grace to others
3. Unforgiveness
 - Almost always comes from a wound.
 - Very different than annoyance
 - Needs healing from within

Forgiveness involves trust...

Trusting God with our hurt and trusting his justice and timing.

4. Results of Unforgiveness
 - We think it hurts the other person.
 - Really it hurts us
 - Unable to function properly (wound hurts!)
 - Leaves us Bitter
 - Causes us to live out of that wound instead of wholeness.
 - If we leave the wound unhealed, it gets infected and festers

IV. How do we Forgive One Another?

1. Remember!
 - Who we WERE (you're not that great! I love you, but for real)
 - Who we ARE
 - The grace WE'VE been so freely given... and give it.
2. Put on...
 - the new self (vs 10)
 - a heart of compassion (vs 12)
 - love (vs 14)
3. It's a fight!
 - Fight the fight.
 - It's YOUR job to take out the trash! (Matthew 5:23-24)

Reflect and Pray

- Who is one person that you need to "bear" with more? What steps can you take to love them?
- Who do you need to forgive?
- Who do you need to ask forgiveness from?

LIFEgroup Questions:

What holds you back the most from asking for forgiveness?

When have you experienced forgiveness in you life, and how has it affected your relationships?

Share a time that someone 'beared' with you, and how were you impacted by it?