

THE BIBLE & FORGIVENESS

LESSON 3: COLOSSIANS 3:13

“Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.”

Opening Discussion: What are the benefits to us when we are **aligned** with God's will?

BACKGROUNDⁱ: “The letter to the Colossians is a beautiful blend of theology and practice. It combines some of the deepest and most sublime teaching about Christ with very basic instruction. As strongly as any other book in the NT, Colossians reminds us that Christ must always be preeminent in a Christian’s affections and worship.” Our lesson text for tonight comes from the second half of the letter which focusses on “Rules for Holy Living.” “Colossians reminds us that we must keep Christ at the center of all that we do, in our own spiritual journey and in the life of the church.” **READ COLOSSIANS 3:1-17**

QUESTIONS TO GUIDE OUR STUDY:

1. What’s the *difference* between the “clothes” of the earthly nature (vv. 5-11) and those of God’s chosen people (vv. 12-17)?
2. What makes it *difficult* to take off the first set of clothes (vv. 5-11) in favor of the second set of clothes (vv. 12-17)?
3. Identify the key words/phrases in verses 12 and 13.
4. Do you see any similarities in Paul’s writings here and what we’ve saw in the last lesson from Jesus in Matthew 6:14? What are they?
5. How can **Our Church** show the world that we are living holy (i.e., *the new life in Christ*)?

CHALLENGE: Be kind, gentle, loving, patient, and forgiving to all you meet, as our LORD desires us to be.