

Part 5:
Forbearance,
Forgiveness,
and Love

Becoming Like Jesus

Colossians 3

Forbearance

-

Colossians 3:13

- Defined – to put up with, to bear with, to endure patiently, tolerate
- Forbearance is needed when...
 - A fellow saint is weak or is ignorant of the truth and its demands on his life – Jas. 2:12-13
 - A brother who has sinned repents and is seeking to re-enter the fold of God
 - A fellow believer intentionally seeks to harm you – 1 Pet. 3:14, 16-17; Mt. 5:39, 44; Rom. 12:12
- Grow in forbearance – Rom. 2:4; Gal. 2:20

Forgiveness

-

Colossians 3:13

- Defined – to give, grant, bestow as a kind favor, to forgive; to show oneself gracious, kind, benevolent, to graciously restore one to another
- We see the connection to grace because we must grant forgiveness “just as the Lord forgave you.”
 - The grace we have received from God must be shown to others – Heb. 8:12; Phil. 4:13
 - Forgiving as we have been forgiven is vital to our salvation – Mt. 6:12, 14-15; 18:32-34
- Forgiveness is required when one has a complaint against another– Mt. 5:23-24; 18:15-17; Lk. 17:3-4

Love

-

Colossians 3:14

- “Above all” the others we must put on love which is the perfect bond of unity – 1 Pet. 4:8
- Defined – (agape) affection, benevolence, brotherly love, good will, generosity, kindly concern, love
 - We should not assume this love is generic
 - It is unique in that its meaning comes from God’s actions toward us as undeserving sinners – 1 Jn. 4:9-10; Rom. 5:5-8
- As a result of God’s love shown to us, we are to love others – Eph. 5:1-2; 1 Jn. 3:14-15, 16; Eph. 5:25, 28-29; Mt. 5:43-45, 48