

Colossians - Chapter 3
“Dressed for Success – Part 2”
Colossians 3:12-13

Verse 12-13

- Paul gets real practical and shows us what our new identity in Christ looks like in our personal relationships when we yield to His life and power.
 - **“Bowels of mercies”**
 - **“Kindness”**
 - **“Humbleness of mind”**
 - **“Meekness”** – Meekness is not weakness. Jesus Christ, who lives in us, is power and wisdom (1 Corinthians 1:24). Meekness is power that is under control of God’s Holy Spirit. We don’t have to go around flexing our muscles and showing off our power and authority. We don’t have to fly off the handle and intimidate others. When we are meek, we possess a quiet inner strength that causes us to treat others with respect.
 - **“Longsuffering”** – This is the opposite of a person who has a short fuse. A person who is longsuffering is able to put up with others’ shortcomings, and have a gracious spirit and not be quick to retaliate. This doesn’t mean we excuse sin, or that we are passive in our response to sin, but our reactions are anchored in grace.
 - **“Forbearing one another”** – This goes right along with longsuffering. If I am forbearing, it simply means I am able to put up with other people and the things about them that irritate me and annoy me. God is forbearing towards sinners in that He holds back His wrath and judgment.
Romans 2:4, 3:25
 - **“Forgiving one another”** – It is not enough to simply endure the irritations and offenses of others towards us. As believers we are commanded to forgive them.
 - You say, “Why should I let them off the hook? They did me dirty.” You let them off **your** hook, but they’re not off God’s hook.
 - Forgiveness unhooks you from the painful past and from internal bitterness which will only destroy you.
 - Notice how Paul assumes that there will be quarrels in the local assembly. There are no perfect churches because there are no perfect people (and no perfect pastors).
 - Quarrels will come. It is a part of life. Remember, every person in the local assembly is at a different maturity level. We are made complete in Christ at salvation, but remember what we learned earlier; there is a growth and renewing process that takes place whereby we are conformed to Christ’s image. This takes time.
 - Believers who know the Lord can still act like babies. They can be a lot like sandpaper and rub you the wrong way. We all need to grow in the graces mentioned in verses 12-13. Some are further along in the growth process than others.

- But this is when we must be very quick to forgive, and apply Christ-like grace to the situation. You cannot hold on to it! It is not edifying or helpful to you to hold on to it. Let it go. You may ask, “Why should I let it go?”
- “*Even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.*” This is the inner motivation that leads us to forgive. You say, “But they were wrong.” Were you wrong when Christ forgave you? “But they don’t deserve it.” Did you deserve Christ’s forgiveness?
- God forgave you freely for Christ’s sake (Ephesians 4:32), which means that you can face the cross and forgive that other person. This doesn’t mean that there won’t be practical consequences to their actions. There always are, but our heart is permeated with a spirit of forgiveness.