

## Relating in the Family of God

This week's memory verse: Colossians 3:15

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.

This week we are going to dig deeper into Colossians 3:12-17 and discover how God wants us to relate with one another within family of God.

### Read Colossians 3:12-17

1. According to these verses, what attitudes of character or behavior are we called to live by within the family of God?

We are called to clothe ourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience. We are called to bear with one another in grievances and to forgive and to love. Specifically we are called to forgive like Christ (unconditional). That means that it isn't based upon an apology or someone making it up to me or paying me back. It is like Christ's forgiveness, unearned and unconditional. We are called to live with peace and thankfulness in our hearts. We are called to teach and help correct one another in the Lord. We are called to grow and worship together with gratitude and love.

2. What would the Church look like if we all followed verses 12 through 14?

Let people think about how God intends his people to interact and treat one another. We would see no pride but only humility in people. No person would be left alone, lonely or abandoned. No person would be broken without a support network. No one would be judged or shunned.

3. How close or far from this reality is the Church in relationships with one another? What do you see as the greatest need of these in Christ's Church?

Ask people share. But remember that we are imperfect sinners saved by grace and that the job of love and unity falls upon everyone's shoulders so this is not a bashing session but rather a self conviction time. As the old Michael Jackson song said, "I'm looking at the man in the mirror". The person I need to change is me, but I can't do it alone. God needs to transform my heart and mind. I need to submit to His work in my life.

4. What do you think Paul means when he tells us to let peace and thankfulness rule in our hearts?

It means I find complete contentment in all circumstances. I understand that God is in control and He is pouring out blessings upon me and my brothers and sisters. I do not hold offenses of others but rather forgive and live a life of peace.

5. How might your relationships change if peace and thankfulness ruled in your heart?

## Let people share

6. What value does letting the Word of Christ dwell in you have regarding your relationships with others?

Only God in His Word can teach, correct, and guide us. If we desire to live the way God intended us as a family, then we need his direction and power. Self will never is enough.

7. How does verse 16 relate to our gatherings for worship and small group?

Our times of worship should be filled with love, forgiveness and unity. When we teach and sing it is for the benefit of one another so that we will all be lifted to a place of praising God alone.

8. What does verse 17 teach you about your risen life in Christ?

No matter what my part of the body, I am to do it all in the love of Christ to the glory of His name.