

I talked with a number of people this past Sunday and they felt that it might be good to expound a little more on what we have discussed over the past two weeks. We have been dealing with an increasingly narrower view of the same subject:

Week 1-Overview of Titus @ 50,000 feet

In this study we observed that a church should have sound doctrine and good works. These two concepts are intimately united. We observed the structure of the church and the way in which God designed it.

This quote has always been helpful to me as a brief summary of Titus, "Let them look to the Church God's picture book, in order that they might be drawn to God's written book, and their find Jesus Christ God's living book, and come to faith in Him."

Week 2-One Another's of Scripture @ 20,000 feet

Last week, we sought to understand the love that we should have for one another. It is grounded in the love that has been shown and given to us. God demonstrated his love for us by sending his son to die for us. Also we noted that the new birth, brought about by the Holy Spirit, causes us to love one another from the heart.

As a result of these truths we should love one another by putting on attitudes of humility, kindness, gentleness, and patience toward one another. We should forgive one another and be hospitable to one another without grumbling. We should serve one another with the gifts that God has given us.

Week 3-Forgiving One Another @ ground level

This week we are going to address a common issue that Christians face as they seek to love one another. In any and every relationship that we have on this earth we struggle with forgiveness. It is impossible for us to live without conflict and sin. Relationships are messy and sin wars against relationships. In the Garden of Eden, sin destroyed our vertical relationship with God and our horizontal relationships (with one another).

As a result, in order to live in a fallen world with other people we must forgive and be forgiven. There are certainly people that are naturally kinder than others, but we are all in some form or fashion naturally predisposed to hating God and one another.

This is seen from the earliest points of a child's development. There is one concern on their mind and it is not love for God and others, but love for oneself.

Jesus came to save us from this condition. He modeled a selfless love. He laid aside himself in the service of his people. Even though we were his enemies he loved us. He also saved us from hating each other. He saved us and put his love in us by the Spirit.

This week we are going to try and get down to the heart of anger, bitterness, and alienation. We must learn to walk in light of the truth need to learn to forgive one another and to be forgiven in the strength given to us!

Day 1: Love One Another: Read 1 John 4:7-12

As a reminder where does love come from? How did God love us?

How do those who have been born of God act toward one another?

Day 2: Ways that we sin against one another

Read: Colossians 3:1-4

If we have truly been raised with Christ, what should we do? Why?

Read: Colossians 3:5-9

Make a list of the things that we are to put to off.

When we fail to put off these sins, how does it hurt others (Choose a couple to discuss in the group)?

Is it hard to put off these sins? Why?

Day 3: Ways to bless one another

Read: Colossians 3:10-12

Paul told us to set our minds on the things above instead of the things below. What heavenly things are we to focus on?

How would this radically reshape your relationships if you set your mind on these things? What would it look like in your friendships, marriage, family, work, etc...?

If you're mind was set on the things above, how would you treat those who sinned against you?

Day 4: What should we do when we sin or are sinned against?

Read: Matthew 18:21-35

Retell the story of this parable in your own words.

What is the main point of this parable?

How does your understanding of God's forgiveness influence your relationship with other believers?

Do you often think lightly of God's forgiveness in Christ? Why?

Are you slow to forgive those who have offended you? Why?

Read: Colossians 3:18-4:1

Notice that the passage you have just been asked to read is preceded by the attitudes and actions we should have toward one another. In this text, he mentions the different members of a normal 1st century household.

Do you think that it is difficult for husbands and wives to embrace their roles in a godly way? Why? Give examples.

Do you think children and parents find it difficult to embrace their roles in a godly way? Why? Give examples.

Do you think that employer and employees find it difficult to embrace their roles in a godly way? Why? Give examples.

In these relationships, how often do you think that we will need to forgive and ask for forgiveness? Daily? Weekly? Monthly?

Whenever you find it hard to forgive, what do you think you should do? It might be good to reread 1 John 4:7-12.

Are there people in your life that you need to forgive or ask for their forgiveness?