



Colossians 3:12 Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, **13** bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. **14** And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. (ESV)

1. Adopt _____ (v.12)

2. Deploy _____ (v.13)

3. Regularly _____ (v.14)

Application Questions

These questions are provided for your further study and application of today's sermon. Thoughtfully writing out the answers to these questions will help to drive home the point of today's study. It is also helpful when you are able to discuss your answers with others.

1. Read **John 13:35**. How do you think you have done in reflecting a distinctively Christian love that is noticeably more patient toward your friends than non-Christians would be toward theirs? What are some reasons it makes sense that we Christians should be held to a higher standard in our friendships?
2. Read **Colossians 3:12**. When you read this list of the five descriptive characteristics which we are commanded to express toward our Christian friends, which are the biggest challenge for you? Why do you think that is, and what will you do to seek God's help to change this?
3. Read **James 1:19**. How can this simple set of instructions help you when something your friend does irritates, frustrates, or disappoints you? What can you do to keep these instructions in the forefront of your mind when you need them?
4. Read **Matthew 18:21-35**. What aspects of this parable motivate you to give more attention to the heartfelt exercise of genuine forgiveness?
5. Read **1 John 3:18**. What are some things you can do to reaffirm your resolve and devotion to continue to love your imperfect Christian friends?

This Week's Bible Reading Schedule

July 24th

Ps.41-43 & Ac.24

July 25th

Ps.44-46 & Ac.25

July 26th

Ps.47-49 & Ac.26

July 27th

Ps.50-52 & Ac.27:1-25

July 28th

Ps.53-55 & Ac.27:26-44

July 29th

Ps.56-58 & Ac.28:1-15

July 30th

Ps.59-61 & Ac.28:16-31

July 31st

Ps.62-64 & Ro.1

The following related sermons are also available for free as mp3 downloads or audio streaming on the Focal Point Website (FocalPointMinistries.org).

Msg. 14-02 – **Exceptional Love with Exceptional Motives**

Msg. 11-08 – **Learning Counterintuitive Responses**

Msg. 09-20 – **Celebrating Unearned Forgiveness**

Msg. 13-08 – **Indebted to a Forgiving God**

Msg. 10-24 – **Exploring the Riches of Unearned Forgiveness**

Msg. 12-03 – **The Encouragement of Being a Part of God's Plan**

Msg. # 04-07 – 04-10 – **Prompted by Love** (a four-part series on selfless love)

This Week's Social Media Hashtag

#ChristianFriendship

For users of Twitter, Facebook, or other social media sites for the grouping of sermon quotes, helpful insights, or your sharable applications drawn from today's sermon.

Here are some books which may assist you in a deeper study of the truths presented in today's sermon. While Pastor Mike cannot endorse every concept presented in each book, he does believe these resources will be helpful in profitably thinking through today's topic.

Adams, Jay. **From Forgiven to Forgiving**. Calvary Press, 1997.

Bonhoeffer, Dietrich. **Life Together: The Classic Exploration of Christian Community**. HarperOne, 2009.

Brauns, Chris. **Unpacking Forgiveness: Biblical Answers for Complex Questions**. Crossway, 2008.

Carson, D. A. **Love in Hard Places**. CrosswayBooks, 2002.

Dever, Mark and Jamie Dunlop. **The Compelling Community**. Crossway, 2015.

Edwards, Jonathan. **Charity and Its Fruits**. Banner of Truth, 1969.

Holmes, Jonathan. **The Company We Keep: In Search of Biblical Friendship**. Cruciform Press, 2014.

Lewis, C.S. **The Four Loves: An Exploration of the Nature of Love**. Mariner Books, 1971.

MacArthur, John. **The Freedom and Power of Forgiveness**. CrosswayBooks, 1998.

Pritchard, Ray. **The Healing Power of Forgiveness**. HarvestHouse, 2005.

Samra, Jim. **The Gift of Church: How God Designed the Local Church to Meet Our Needs**. Zondervan, 2010.

Sande, Ken. **The Peacemaker: A Biblical Guide to Resolving Personal Conflicts**. Baker Books, 1997.

Smith, William P. **How to Love Difficult People: Receiving and Sharing God's Mercy**. NG Press, 2008.

Straunch, Alexander. **The Hospitality Commands: Building Loving Christian Community**. Lewis & Roth, 1993.

Welch, Edward T. **Side by Side: Walking with Others in Wisdom and Love**. Crossway, 2015.