**PROPER RELATIONSHIPS AMONG GOD’S PEOPLE**

Colossians 3:12-14

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**INTRODUCTION**

Colossians is one of Paul’s four prison letters, written from Rome around A.D. 60-65. Paul wrote to encourage the Christians through practical teachings and a show of love for God’s people. Last week, we examined Paul’s emphasis upon both passional and rational aspects of holy living. Today, we will consider his teachings about proper relationships among God’s people.

1. **GODLY RELATIONSHIPS SHOULD HAVE THESE GRACES.**
2. Compassion: We are to deal with others in an attitude of **mercy**.
3. Kindness: We are to have a character that is **morally** excellent.
4. Humility: We are not be boastful but, rather, **modest**.
5. Gentleness: We are to be characterized by **strength** under **control**.
6. Patience: Our patience is a matter of long suffering or **endurance**.

*These Christian graces reflect the fruit of the Spirit Paul lists in Galatians 5:22-23. Our relationships among God’s people should have these qualities. It is noteworthy that even worldly people may demonstrate these qualities in their relationships. Thus, let us see what sets us apart from the world.*

1. **GODLY RELATIONSHIPS SHOULD PRACTICE THESE GRACES.**
2. We should have grace-filled **one**-**to**-**one** relationships.

*“Bear with each other.”*

1. We should have grace-filled **multi**-**person** relationships.

*“Forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another.”*

1. We should follow the Lord’s **example**.

*“Forgive as the Lord forgave you.”*

1. We should remember the **most** **important** quality.

*“Over all these virtues put on love.”*

1. We should be **united** in love.

*“Be bound together in perfect unity.”*

*All of the Christian graces have little value if they are not infused with a spirit of love for one another. Proper motivation is essential if we are to have Godly relationships. Love binds us together!*

**CONCLUSION**

Paul reminds us of the importance of maintaining Godly relationships with our Christian brothers and sisters. He spells out what should characterize our relationships with one another. Oh, how we need these grace-filled relationships in the church today! There is no room for envy, gossip, divisions, whatever. Where there is a genuine love for one another, it is impossible for these negative things to exist in the church. Practice these graces every day and every way. Build unity!

*“We are one in the bond of love;*

*We are one in the bond of love.*

*We have joined our spirit with the Spirit of God;*

*We are one in the bond of love.”*