

**"HOW TO BE 'U':
How to be united in
christ? Choose to
Love"**

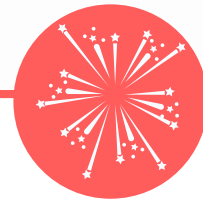
SERIES BREAK



WORD

Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Colossians 3:13-14



SPARKS

- Have you experienced being somewhere for the first time, and everyone was so welcoming it that made you feel like you've known each other for a long time?
- Have you experienced being somewhere for the first time, and no one greeted you and no one ever acknowledged your presence and said "thank you for coming" when you are leaving the place? How did you feel?

In the eyes of our God, we are family. We are not just acquaintances when we are in our small group/J-Group, when we are working together with our ministry team, even when we are together in the church. We are one big family in the body of Christ since we are bonded by the blood of our Lord Jesus. God's wonderful design for all of us is to dwell in unity. The problem is there's an enemy who is focused to snatch our peace and unity, navigating our attention to look at each other, to continuously stir up conflict and misunderstanding just to see us hurt, torn apart, hating and fighting each other. Let us see how we can move and live as God's design and how to strengthen our relationship with one another to maintain unity.

1. 1.BEAR WITH EACH OTHER

Colossians 3:13

Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

Apostle Paul clearly sees the weakness of humanity that is why he wrote to the Colossians, to followers of Christ to bear with each other especially in the events of misunderstanding, different opinions, shortcomings, disappointments and failures. It means there must be a commitment to hold on especially during unpleasant situations.

Know that to bear with each other is not a “default” attitude, or it is not our nature to bear therefore bearing each other is a decision and intentional goal to see to it that we help each other complete the work we have received in the Lord.

1

2. FORGIVE ONE ANOTHER

Colossians 3:13

Bear with each other and **forgive one another** if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

Forgiveness is mentioned twice in this verse, it is pressing the importance of forgiving others. Just as how powerful, graceful and personal we received God’s forgiveness, it is the same manner we must forgive those who hurt, harm and mistreat us. How many times and until when are we going to forgive?

In Matthew 18:22 (Matthew 18:21-35) Peter asked how many times we must forgive and Jesus said, “seventy-seven times”. Imagine waking up each morning having in our mind set the seventy-seven allowance to forgive, that’s a lot in one day. It would mean there’s no reason to hold grudges. No wonder why Martin Luther King Jr. quoted “Forgiveness is not an occasional act; it is a constant attitude.” Having a permanent attitude to forgive help us to have a strong relationship with each other.

What fault or offense you still hold against someone who hurt you?

2

3. 3.CHOOSE TO LOVE.

Colossians 3:14

*And over all these virtues **put on love**, which binds them all together in perfect unity.*

Apostle Paul acknowledged that above all the virtues, love is the highest virtue. Love is the nature of God; love is the center of Jesus's teachings and love is the content of Paul's writing. God's presence is in the atmosphere where love is exhibited. In a world where nobody is perfect, love binds His people together in perfect unity. As followers of Christ, we must diligently work together to keep the unity in our fellowship, not division. To be able to achieve it - we must love one another. Jesus said to His disciples in John 13:34-35, "A new command I give you: Love one another as I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

And in Philippians 2:3b it says...in humility value others above yourselves. Only in humble attitude, considering that others are better than us, then it becomes easier and possible to love others.

Choose to love not only when everything is alright, more so, when the situation is not pleasant, when it is easier and feels right to hate and to revenge, recognize that it is the space to exercise what His followers are called to do, to love, choose to love.

LIVE IT!

- Amid everyone being unique, having different in ideas, opinion and different talents, let none of those and let nothing divide us in our fellowship. Choose to love.
- Let us focus in building and strengthening our relationship. Forgive the way God forgave us.
- Commit yourself to help each other to complete the work we received from the Lord. Bear with each other.



PRAYER

- Thank our Father in heaven for the love and forgiveness we received from Him through His Son, Jesus.
- Thank and praise our God for our family and the family we have in Jesus who encourage us and journey with us in unity until the work we received in the Lord is completed.
- Ask for courage to submit and surrender to God all hurts and offenses caused by others so you can forgive those who hurt and harm you. Then receive the healing in your heart, mind and soul.
- Ask for help from the Holy Spirit the strength to bear other's shortcomings and willing heart to forgive and love other.

