



Thanks for checking out our sermon-based Study Guides! If you've never used our Study Guides before, you'll find some basic instructions beginning at the bottom of page 2.

NEW this year: These study guides will be written by thoughtful and experienced Life Group Leaders. As always, use these guides as a head-start in your own preparation as the needs and culture is different from each group. And of course, please continue to give us feedback.

LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE
for the Sermon given on February 5, 2023
by Pastor Tim Ghali
"FORGIVENESS and PEACEMAKING in QUIET-QUITTING CANCEL CULTURE" -
Colossians 3:12-17



Question: How do we move from hostility and tension towards peace and forgiveness?

Bottom Line: When we understand the identity Jesus' forgiveness gives us, we can find grace to forgive others.

We are halfway in our winter series called **“One Another: The Risk of a With-Others Life”**. We have covered the movement from lonely to loved, talked about the importance of empathy and listening and showing hospitality. Today we want to focus on peace and forgiveness.

How do we move from hostility and tension toward peace and forgiveness? Can healing and restoration be found? Can we reclaim the confidence we once held in strong and loving friendships and relationships?

Let’s begin in prayer before we begin reading and discussing our text.

Main Scripture Reading: Colossians 3:12-17

¹² Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ¹³ **Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.** ¹⁴ And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

¹⁵ **Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.** ¹⁶ Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Group Discussion Questions

1. Pastor Tim began his message referring to cancel culture and quiet-quitting as modern ways of ignoring one another without opportunities for reconciliation. Have you experienced these types of broken relationships or do you know someone who has?
2. Is there anyone in your life that you have been “bearing with?” in the words of Paul from Colossians 3:12? If so, describe that situation and what you are learning from it.
3. Read Colossians 3:15 out loud. What does *the peace of Christ* mean to you?
4. Pastor Tim shared a personal story of seeking forgiveness in a broken relationship. Can you remember a time that you asked for forgiveness? Did you experience the type of reconciliation you were hoping for or did you feel it was left unresolved?
5. Perhaps the opposite of forgiving someone is holding a grudge against them. Is there someone you are holding a grudge against? How would allowing the “peace of Christ to reign in you heart” help in this situation? Could this lead to forgiveness and the restoration of the relationship? And if reconciliation is not currently an option, could allowing peace to rule your heart allow you to move on with your life?

Take Home Message:

Taking the risk to bear with one another, to forgive one another, and to allow the peace of Christ to reign in our hearts can help us to grow in the One-Another Life.

Homework Until Next Time:

Ask the members of your LG to complete the Discipleship Planning Tool and the GPS Assessment Tool before your next meeting. Here is some fresh language:

We're all on a journey; where is yours taking you?

The beauty of the way of Jesus is that it's not just good for us, it's good for the world around us. But that kind of beautiful life doesn't come from just hearing the words of Jesus; it comes from putting them into practice. Three kinds of practice, actually:

- The with-God life of our personal habits and routines;
- The with-others life of our genuine and life-changing relationships; and
- The for-the-world life that makes an impact beyond our immediate homes and families, into our communities and beyond.

Growing as disciples of Jesus will make a Kingdom difference in our world and a transformative difference in our lives as believers and as a group. And these resources are helpful in identifying the next steps for our journeys.

Let's Pray

Support for the Leader (These Teaching Points are provided to help the group leader make connections from the message to their group with both insights from the Biblical text and also opportunities in the life of our church).

Teaching Points:

- Pursue forgiveness – in the long run you won't regret it
- When there is no closure, pursue peace instead – and leave the door open
- When you were seeking forgiveness, but there was no reconciliation, remember what that felt like so that you may be moved to forgive others
- When you were wronged, but the offender never attempted to make amends, remember what that felt like so that you may be moved to seek forgiveness for the wrongs you commit
- The *"peace of Christ"* (Colossians 3:15) is the power of Christ that can heal, bring truth, help you experience the love of God, remind you of the forgiveness you have in God, and move you forward
- Forgiveness does not mean forgetting what happened, erasing the pain, or restoring the relationship to what it was. Forgiveness allows us to care again, and to see people in the way God sees them.
- **Forgiveness has the power to release us from the anger and resentment and free us to move forward with our life again**

- If you have not yet done so, please spend 15-20 minutes to complete the Discipleship Planning Tool ([grace.org/the journey](https://grace.org/the-journey)) and the GPS Assessment Tool (grace.org/volunteer)

For Further Biblical Study:

Isaiah 43:25

²⁵ “I, even I, am he who blots out
your transgressions, for my own sake,
and remembers your sins no more.

Jeremiah 31:34

³⁴ No longer will they teach their neighbor,
or say to one another, ‘Know the LORD,’
because they will all know me,
from the least of them to the greatest,”
declares the LORD.
“For I will forgive their wickedness
and will remember their sins no more.”

Matthew 6:12

¹² And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.

Matthew 6:14-15

¹⁴ For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. ¹⁵ But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

Matthew 26:28

²⁸ This is my blood of the^[a] covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

How to Use These Study Guides:

- Consider sending out the Scripture passage to your group members ahead of time.
- Begin each meeting with a short time of checking in with one another.
- You may want to begin the discussion by reading the Scripture passage together out loud, or by summarizing the passage if everyone has read it ahead of time.
- Don’t feel like you need to discuss every question included in the Study Guide. Pick one or two to start with, and see how the conversation flows.
- If your group meets over Zoom:
 - You may need to do more overt facilitating over Zoom than you would in person. Feel free to call on people to invite them to share.
 - Try to be sensitive to attention spans over Zoom—keep the meetings shorter than they would be in person.
- Be sure to set aside time for sharing prayer requests and praying together.

Group Leader Support: Please reach out to your Campus Pastor or your Coach if you have any questions about leading your group or concerns about your group dynamic. If you have questions about or feedback on the Study Guides, please reach out to Pastor Tim or Grace Lee from the Group Life team.