**Being Careful How We Build**

**Building One Another**

**Tolerating One Another**

**Ephesians 4:1-3, Colossians 3:9-14**

1. Although we did not choose each other, we are unified in Christ

**Ephesians 2:8-9** - *For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.*

**Ephesians 1:4-5** - *…just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will.*

**Ephesians 3:8-10** - *To me, the very least of all saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ, and to bring to light what is the administration of the mystery which for ages has been hidden in God who created all things; so that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly places.*

2. On occasion, God’s people struggled to tolerate one another

A. Cain and Abel (jealousy over doing what is right)

B. Moses and Miriam (jealousy over God’s choosing)

C. Peter and the Gentiles (division over race)

**Galatians 2:12-13** - *For prior to the coming of certain men from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he began to withdraw and hold himself aloof, fearing the party of the circumcision. The rest of the Jews joined him in hypocrisy, with the result that even Barnabas was carried away by their hypocrisy.*

D. Paul and Barnabas (division over Mark)

Although God brought us into unity with him and one another, there are times when we struggle tolerating one another.

4 ways that we can tolerate one another as we seek to accomplish all that God wants us to do

**I. Tolerating One Another by Valuing Our Unity More Than Our Differences**

**Ephesians 4:1-3 -** *Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, showing tolerance for one another in love, being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.*

A. Tolerance is part of living worthy of the gospel

B. We tolerate in love

C. The foundation of this command is prayer for knowledge and power

**Ephesians 3:16-19 -** *…that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God*

**II. Tolerating One Another Requires One Have the Humility to Remember That All of Us Were Given the Same Command**

**Ephesians 4:1-3 -** *Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love.*

**Romans 15:7 -** *Therefore, accept one another, just as Christ also accepted us to the glory of God.*

**III. Tolerating One Another Because Others Contribute to Your Christian Growth**

**Colossians 3:9-14 -** *Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices, and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him—a renewal in which there is no distinction between Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and freeman, but Christ is all, and in all. So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you. Beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity.*

**IV. Tolerating One Another Does Not Mean We Celebrate or Validate Sin either Inside or Outside the Church**

**2 Timothy 4:3-4 -** *For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths.*

**2 Corinthians 11:3-4 -** *But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ. For if one comes and preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted, you bear this beautifully.*