

**Do I Have to Put Up with You?**

*Our Covenant Life Together*

*Colossians 3:1-17*

*Sunday, February 14, 2010*

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\_\_\_\_\_ are a \_\_\_\_\_ person

1. We are flawed in our \_\_\_\_\_. (5-7)

2. We are flawed in our \_\_\_\_\_. (8-11)

\_\_\_\_\_ your own \_\_\_\_\_

1. How? \_\_\_\_\_ on your \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ with Christ. (2-3)

2. Why? Christ has \_\_\_\_\_ you to

\_\_\_\_\_! (1)

3. When? \_\_\_\_\_ your \_\_\_\_\_

with Christ. (4)

**Gear Up for** \_\_\_\_\_

**with**

\_\_\_\_\_ **people.**

1. What are the Pieces?

\_\_\_\_\_ with others. (12b)

\_\_\_\_\_ others. (13b)

2. What's the Point? (14-15)

\_\_\_\_\_

resulting from

\_\_\_\_\_.

3. How do we know?

\_\_\_\_\_ (16)

\_\_\_\_\_ (17)

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**PREPARING to be with One Another:**

Use a separate sheet of paper or notebook to work through these questions in advance of your Growth Group gathering. The more people come prepared, the richer and deeper and more real our discussions will be with one another.

**CONNECTING with One Another**

Open your time by checking in with one another to see how you're doing and how one another's week was. Here's one possible get to know you question . . .

*Where did you live when you were seven years old?*

**EXPLORING God's Word with One Another**

*Remember, we're giving you more than you can really discuss here. Pick a few questions that will take you back into the content of the passage and message.*

1. Read Colossians 3:1-17. What are the 3-4 main "hunks" here? What's the main command of this passage?
2. Read 1 Corinthians 1:10-17; Philippians 4:2-3, 2:1-11; Galatians 5:16-25. Compare these passages with Col 3. What does this tell us about relational conflict in the early church? What were the issues? What does the Bible tell us to do in these situations?
3. According to vv 5-11, what are the major obstacles we face in building loving relationships in the church?

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4. According to vv 1-3, 13, & 15 what grace resources has the Lord provided us to overcome these obstacles? Consider also Ephesians 1:18-21; Rom 8:14-17; Colossians 1:13-14; 2 Corinthians 1:22. Why do we need to know about these resources?

**APPLYING God's Word with One Another**

1. Share about a time you had a hard time getting along with someone at church. What made that relationship challenging for you?
2. What would it have looked like to put on love in that situation? What might you have said or done differently?
3. Make the obstacles to loving relationships (EXPLORING question #4) concrete. Give examples of these characteristics in real life.
4. The point of this passage is for us to live in a loving covenant community. Why do we need to focus on "the things above" (v. 2) to do this? How do vv. 1-3 enable us to go way beyond putting up with difficult relationships and get to the heart of the matter?
5. What are steps you can take to begin reprogramming yourself to "set your mind on the things above" in the face of difficult relationships so they will become loving covenant relationships?

**PRAYING for One Another**

1. Quickly share personal requests.
2. Use the truth of the message as a "springboard" to pray for your personal growth and your Growth Group.