

“Longsuffering and Forbearance”

Col. 3:12-14

Introduction

- I. God demonstrates His love for us through His longsuffering and forbearance (Exo. 34:6; Num. 14:18; 2 Pet. 3:9, 15; Rom. 2:4; 3:5; 15:5).
- II. Christians, in order to be godly, must also learn to be longsuffering and forbearing (Col. 3:12-14; 2 Pet. 1:5-11).
 - A. We must recognize our faults in order to help others with theirs.
 - B. We must treat others the way that we would like to be treated.

Discussion

- I. We must recognize our faults in order to help others with theirs (Rom. 3:23; 1 John 1:8-10).
 - A. All of us have things in our pasts of which we are not proud.
 - B. If all of us received what we deserved, there would be no hope (Rom. 6:23; cf. Eph. 2:12).
 - C. We must not allow ourselves to become “self righteous” (Luke 18:9-14; Titus 3:5).
- II. We must treat others the way that we would like to be treated (Matt. 7:12; Luke 6:31).
 - A. If we want mercy, then we must extend mercy (Matt. 5:7; Luke 6:36).
 - B. If we want forgiveness, then we must be forgiving (Matt. 6:14-15; Mark 11:25; Eph. 4:32; Matt. 18:21-22; Luke 6:37 [cf. Matt. 7:1-5]).
 - C. If we want help, then we must help others (Gal. 6:1-2; Heb. 13:16; Phil. 2:4; Luke 6:38; Matt. 25:35-40; 1 John 3:17).
 - D. We must love our fellow man as we love ourselves (Gal. 5:14; James 2:8; Mark 12:31; cf. Eph. 5:29).

Conclusion

- I. We should all be thankful for the longsuffering and forbearance of God!
- II. In like manner, we must learn to be longsuffering and forbearing like God!