

Transformed
Week 7: Forgiveness & Reconciliation
Colossians 3:12-17

1. Can you think of a time that you really handled an issue related to conflict, forgiveness, and reconciliation poorly? Maybe you lacked the humility to see your own contribution clearly or maybe you lacked the emotional strength to have the hard conversation. Whatever the case, what did you learn? What do you know now that you wish you knew then?
2. Read **Colossians 3:12-17**. What is Paul's inspired vision for the community? Why is forgiveness central to the community? (Think specifically about how forgiveness itself is connected to way you personally see, are shaped by, and share the hope of Jesus.)
3. What does Paul tell the church to "put on"? Which of these is most difficult for you to "clothe yourself with"? Why?
4. How would you define forgiveness? What are some of the things that forgiveness is not?
5. Think about the process of "bearing with each other" as you work through "grievances." When does an offense reach the level where you should confront the offender? Ken Sandee, in his helpful book *The Peacemaker*, identifies four questions to guide your thinking:
 - Is it dishonoring God?
 - Is it damaging to your relationship?
 - Is it hurting others?
 - Is it hurting the offender?

Can you think of a time when you were glad you *didn't* confront? Can you think of a time when you regretted not confronting? Can you think of a time when you saw God work through confrontation?

6. Read **Galatians 6:1-3**. What is the goal of confrontation? What guidelines does Paul offer?
7. What questions do you still have with the forgiveness and reconciliation process?