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Gracious
S p a c e

Bear (put up) with
One Another

Review

Each part of the “*Gracious Space*” Study Series builds on the previous part. Although each study can be a stand-alone devotional, it is best that we hold previous points in our mind as we progress through.

Part 1 - Breaking Barriers Between Us

Key Points:

- Barriers can be helpful AND limiting.
- We put up walls as individuals and socially for protection but what exactly are we protecting?
- Barriers can be personal, social, cultural, and theological.
- Many religious folk think all cultural barriers are actually theological ones.
- The Church has been putting up needless barriers for literally thousands of years.
- The first step in fostering gracious space is to recognize the barriers we put up that limit authentic connection.

Gracious Space: Bear (put up) With One Another

Before beginning, it could be a good idea to take some time to simply pray and meditate in order to open your heart and mind to the Spirit...

at least 5 minutes, but more is better. :-)

You may wish to be mindful of the stressors and pressures that are competing for your attention.

Take some deep breaths, being aware of the air coming in through your nose and out through your mouth.

Allow your worries to worry about themselves for now, while you become present and ready in *this* moment.

RESOURCE: [Presence of God Meditation](#)

Continue now, being present and giving space for yourself, and others, to journey into the Father's Words, the Spirit's Presence, and the love, grace, and passion of the Son.

Gracious Space: Bear (put up) With One Another

What does 'put up with' one another mean to you?

Our current culture seems to be stressing the need for social *tolerance* in areas of race, sexuality, and gender identity.

How well do you think our culture is
'putting up' with one another?

Think ethnically. Think social classes. Think politics.
Think health autonomy...

Gracious Space: Bear (put up) With One Another

At KCC we've been teaching that we are called to participate with God in His restoration of our broken world.
In carrying out this mission, we are bound to encounter some differences that cause some disunity.

How well do you think your “non-Christian” friends or family would rate the “Church” on its *unity*?

What about your *Christian* friends and family?

How well do *you* think the world-wide church is doing with unity?
How well is KCC ‘putting up’ with one another?

Gracious Space: Bear (put up) With One Another



Scripture:
Read Colossians 3:1-17

If you are able, look at Colossians 3:13 in several different translations.

“Bear with each other”
has been the most popular way to translate this section,
but alternatives include
“Make allowance for each other’s faults,”
“Put up with each other,”
and
“Be tolerant with one another.”

Which wording speaks most clearly to you?
Why?

Gracious Space: Bear (put up) With One Another



Have you noticed that it seems easier to put up with major differences or odd choices from those who are young?

What implications does this have for how we react to those who are young in the faith?

Do Christians all grow or mature at the same rate, in the same areas of their lives and faith?

Maybe think of some examples.

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Scripture:

Re-read Colossians 3:12-14

How do the “clothes” of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, forgiveness, & love fit with the idea of bearing with, or putting up with, others?

Imagine putting on the “clothes” one item at a time.

Which one of them should you start with?

(Explain why...if it isn't embarrassing)

Think of someone you often need to 'put up with'.

(Be careful about using names here)

Which piece of “clothing” would be most useful as you try to bear with that person?

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Scripture:

Read Ephesians 4:1-2

(try reading aloud even if you're alone)

In what ways is this like the Colossians scripture?

What different thoughts is the Apostle Paul drawing out here?

In verse 1 Paul uses the word *parakaleó* (par-ak-al-eh'-o).

He's saying,

“I urge you...” or “I beseech you..” or “I beg you...!”

What's driving Paul's urgency or passion here?

(Hint: you may need to read chapter 3)

Gracious Space: Bear (put up) With One Another

Scripture:

Read Romans 15:1-2

This is the third place where the Apostle Paul gives “bear with” instructions. What else can we learn from this verse?

Try to think back to week 1 (from Romans 14),
how does reminding the strong to
“bear with the failings of the weak” in chapter 15,
fit with what Paul wrote earlier?

The final questions on the next page may not have clear answers. It is REALLY important to take time to ponder and/or discuss them humbly and prayerfully.

It may be a good idea to journal your answers or think about them over the course of a few days.

Gracious Space: Bear (put up) With One Another

Do you know anyone 'weak in the faith' that you don't get along with?

Do they think *they* are the weak one?

How do we know *who* is the 'weak one' in disagreements over what the Bible teaches?

How can fostering gracious space help in areas of disagreement?

What's scary about a gracious space. Is it dangerous in some ways?

Can you think of any examples of where Jesus fostered a space that allowed for people to disagree with him?

Reflect or discuss what non-believers might think about a Christianity that has trouble 'bearing with' one another.

Gracious Space



Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Hebrews 4:16

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