

MBC C3 LEADERS QUESTIONS
WEEK 5 - 11/7/21

Listen to, Learn about, and Love on on another

Trust is defined as “belief that someone or something is reliable, good, honest, effective, etc.” (Merriam-Webster, accessed 11/5/21, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/trust>)

Read Proverbs 3:5-6. In your experience is it harder to trust in God or in others? Why? If you are comfortable, please share a situation in your past or present where you struggled with trust. You may be general and make-up names for confidentiality.

“5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; 6 in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.” (Proverbs 3:5-6, NIV)

3:5 Trust in the Lord. Rely entirely upon the Lord’s Word and promises as revealed through the sage (2:6; 16:20). See note 1:7.

lean . . . understanding. The contrast is between the perception of reality that submits to God’s revealed Word as the authority for all truth, and a perception that assumes human conjecture to have that authority.

3:6 acknowledge him. This is the practical expression of the mind that submits to God and knows Him.

he will make straight your paths. The Lord will guide you to the final goal of life. God gives wisdom and with it the task of making wise decisions; these are the two aspects of guidance in wisdom teaching. There is no hint of guidance that bypasses the duty of making decisions. But human decisions do not overrule the protection of God’s providence (Gen. 50:20, 21; Ps. 103:14). (ESV Reformation Study Bible, accessed 11/5/21, <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=proverbs+3&version=NIV>)

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Getting Started with a Warm-Up:

- 1) Reflecting on Pastor Randy's sermon on 11/7/21, which part was most impactful for you? Why?

- 2) How easy or difficult is it for you to forgive? Why do you think that is?

Getting Down to Business:

The following questions are following this format: Scripture/Observation, Application, and Prayer (SOAP).

1) Scripture/Observation:

A) Read Colossians 3:13-14, Ephesians 4:32, 2 Corinthians 5:16-21. Recall from Pastor Randy's sermon:

- Forgiveness deals with the past;
- Reconciliation has to do with the present; and
- Trust has to do with the future.

Which do you think is more difficult, forgiving someone who has hurt you or trusting someone who has broken trust?

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“Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. 14 And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.” (Colossians 3:13-14, NIV)

As the Lord (v.13), Christ sets the standard for interpersonal relationships. The Greek makes a direct comparison at this point: “As the Lord . . . so also you.”

Paul identifies several virtues of Christian behavior. The crowning virtue is love, which binds all the rest together in perfect unity (v.14). In Japanese ceremonial dress, layers of expensively decorated cloth are draped over a person, each beautiful in its own right. But the costume is incomplete until the belt (obj) is placed around the waist, holding the costume together. In a similar way, love functions as the obj of the virtues with which a Christian is to be clothed.

Paul then illustrates the application of these virtues to everyday life. Patience finds its application in bearing with each other (vv.12-13). Forgiveness becomes especially pertinent when there arise grievances . . . against one another (v.13). In the church we are to exercise patience and forgiveness in order to reflect God’s calling upon and Christ’s sovereignty over our lives. (Asbury Bible Commentary, accessed 11/5/21, <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=colossians+3&version=NIV>)

“Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.” (Ephesians 4:32, NIV)

4:32–5:2 as God . . . as Christ. Believers must extend to others the forgiveness and love God has extended to them. In the same way, because Israel was purchased from slavery in Egypt, they were to have a special regard for aliens, slaves, and the dispossessed in their own midst (Ex. 22:21; 23:9; Lev. 19:33, 34; Deut. 5:15). The same logic is found in Jesus’ new commandment: “as I have loved you, you also are to love one another” (John 13:34). (ESV Reformation Study Bible, accessed 11/5/21,

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<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians+4&version=NIV>)

“16 So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! 18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: 19 that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. 20 We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God. 21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.” (2 Corinthians 5:16-21, NIV)

V 16–21: RECONCILIATION Those reconciled to God, through Christ, have become completely new people. Furthermore, they urge others to be reconciled to God. The basis of that reconciliation is that the sinless and righteous Christ was made sin for sinful and unrighteous sinners, who trust Him, so that they are counted as sinless and righteous in Him. (Bible Panorama commentary, accessed 11/5/21, <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Corinthians+5%3A16-21&version=NIV>)

- B) Once again, read Colossians 3:13-14 and compare it with 1 Peter 4:8. What role does love play in the process of forgiveness?

“Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.” (1 Peter 4:8, NIV)

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4:8 love covers . . . sins. Love keeps no record of wrongs but forgives in response to God's forgiveness (Prov. 10:12; Matt. 18:21, 22; 1 Cor. 13:4–7; James 5:20). See "Love" at 1 Cor. 13:13. (ESV Reformation Study Bible, accessed 11/5/21, <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+peter+4&version=NIV>)

2) **Application:** Considering your experiences, Pastor Randy's sermon 11/7/21, these questions and the related verses from scripture, please answer the following questions:

A) How do you think our church family can become better at practicing forgiveness?

B) How can we do a better job teaching the children that we have influence over to practice forgiveness?

3) **Prayer:** "Lord, we thank you for the forgiveness we have received through Jesus. Please continue to teach us to forgive others like you forgave us. May we be motivated by love for you and for others. Amen."