

Put Up With One Another

Some of you are not going to like this at all.

All of us will not like this at various times in our lives — like daily!

Verse 13 gets right down to where we live: at home, at church, at work, day in and day out; in marriage, in single life, in ministries! This will be extremely difficult if you have a controlling personality! I think of all the Christian virtues covered in Colossians 3:12-13, this is the most difficult and the most needed in our daily lives.

Colossians 3:13 bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.

Remember, we are in the section of Colossians where we live daily with one another. We saw in verse 12, we are to have a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and longsuffering. But there is so much more we are to be characterized by as followers of Jesus Christ.

Bearing with one another This is translated in several different ways: forbearing one another; be tolerant with one another; even accepting one another; and the one I like: put up with each other.

All these are attempts to translate the *Present Middle Participle* of the Greek word *to hold back from falling*; to restrain, to stop, to bear up; to have patience with in regards to the errors or weaknesses or even personalities of others.

Put Up With One Another
Colossians 3:13

Make no doubt about this Greek word, it is complicated in Classical Greek as well as in New Testament Greek. The Complete Biblical Library Volume 1, page 264 has this to say about this Greek word in Classical Greek: “appreciating the range of definitions of *anechomai* in secular Greek would involve an investigation of the complex relationship between the verb and its voice and mood, as well as reckoning with its status as transitive (taking an object) or intransitive (not taking an object).” Whether you understand this or not, the point is that all this, just to work at a classical definition! So, let’s limit our grasping of this word to New Testament Greek where it is just about as complex and confusing.

The clearest way to grasp this word is to note that in Kittel, Vol 1, page 359 this word has two main senses.

First: to receive, take up, bear and endure.

Secondly: “To restrain oneself.” We are to see that bearing with one another or enduring what another does or says — and — restraining yourself from reacting or moving out of the Filling of the Holy Spirit are combined.

Let’s begin with Jesus Christ where in the Synoptic gospels our word is used only by Jesus Christ when He came down from the Mount of Transfiguration in Mark 9:19 and Luke 9:41 and

**Matthew 17:17 And Jesus answered and said,
“You unbelieving and perverted generation,
how long shall I be with you? How long shall I
put up with you? Bring him here to Me.”**

Put Up With One Another
Colossians 3:13

Here we see why ‘longsuffering’ comes before enduring.

How long draws from longsuffering while **put up with you** is before His wrath is rightly administered. Jesus must have found it difficult to tolerate this useless generation after all that happened on the Mount of Transfiguration with Moses and Elijah.

As to the definition of “bear with” involved in ‘receiving’

**Hebrews 13:22 But I urge you, brethren, bear
with this word of exhortation, for I have written
to you briefly**

bear with receiving this word of exhortation The entire epistle of Hebrews is an appeal from the author as an exhortation, an encouragement to proceed in action as Jewish believers in Jesus to move on in their Christian faith. To bear with receiving his teaching means to pay close attention even when it may seem difficult or even wrong to their past.

To give us a view of what happens if believers will not endure receiving sound doctrine look at

**2 Timothy 4:3 For the time will come when
they will not endure sound doctrine; but
wanting to have their ears tickled, they will
accumulate for themselves teachers in
accordance to their own desires,**

For the time will come close of Church Age, just before the Rapture, which seems to describe today

Put Up With One Another
Colossians 3:13

when they **will not endure** this is our word

sound doctrine this means they will not listen to sound, verse by verse teaching of the Word of God. They will not receive the teaching of sound doctrine. There are few churches that ‘endure’ sound, verse by verse teaching of the Word of God; they prefer to be entertained.

but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, desires from their flesh nature, not from Holy Spirit. I constantly give thanks for each and everyone of you.

It is not a Christian virtue to ‘endure’ false teachers and certainly is not from the leading of Holy Spirit.

2 Corinthians 11:4 For if one comes and preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted, you bear *this* beautifully.

2 Corinthians 11:19 For you, being so wise, tolerate the foolish gladly.

2 Corinthians 11:20 For you tolerate it if anyone enslaves (to legalism, to tithing, to rituals) you, anyone devours you, anyone takes

**Put Up With One Another
Colossians 3:13**

**advantage of you, anyone exalts himself,
anyone hits you in the face.**

But we are also to ‘endure’ suffering for or because of our faith.

**2 Thessalonians 1:4 therefore, we ourselves
speak proudly of you among the churches of
God for your perseverance and faith in the
midst of all your persecutions and afflictions
which you endure.**

Here we can grasp the meaning of this word. They endure persecutions and afflictions, meaning they did not deny their faith, they did not stop following Jesus Christ, they did not stop learning the Word of God even under afflictions and intimidations. Many Christians today stop going where sound teaching is presented because of pressure from their non-Christian and even from their Christian friends or because of their children. Today intimidation, and even severe action is taken by authorities, teachers and government against Christian morals. Each one of you must decide, which is more important to you. Your stand with Christ or with the world. In Acts 4 we just saw how Peter and John were not intimidated by the Sanhedrin when they were ‘commanded’ to stop this teaching about Jesus and Him resurrected.

**Acts 4:19 But Peter and John answered and
said to them, “Whether it is right in the sight
of God to give heed to you rather than to God,
you be the judge;**

Put Up With One Another
Colossians 3:13

**Acts 4:20 for we cannot stop speaking about
what we have seen and heard**

Will you deceive yourself that you still love the Lord and love His Word when you will no longer endure affliction for your beliefs?

Now we come to our study in Colossians 3:13. In our relationship with one another (other Christians, at home, family, at work and the local church), we are exhorted to **put up with one another** And this is our study today.

People, we have seen this same principle with being ‘longsuffering’ with one another and now we are to ‘put up’ with one another.

**Ephesians 4:2 with all humility and
gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance
for one another**

This of course is the Greek word we are studying. And now the Holy Spirit zero’s in on how we are to ‘put up’ with one another: **in love**, that is in Spiritual Love. If we ever needed the Holy Spirit, surely it is now! To put up with...and you fill in the blanks...and put up with them in Spiritual Love.

showing tolerance for one another another of the same kind, that is another believer. Well, wait a minute some of you may protest! Are we not to put up with unbelievers? Absolutely. But people, it is much easier to put up with an unbeliever. Why? Because we do not expect a certain conduct from an unbeliever but we do expect a lot from another believer. So here the Holy Spirit emphasizes that we are to put up with one

Put Up With One Another
Colossians 3:13

another, that is with another believer. Oh, and put up with them in Spiritual Love!

showing tolerance or putting up with and this is in the present tense. And you know what this means...this means all the time, every day in your life. There are various character flaws or just characteristics of other believers that rub us the wrong way! And of course, there are sin patterns that we really get upset with. And what the Holy Spirit is saying here is that we are not to get out of fellowship with Holy Spirit, or out of fellowship with our Lord and Savior. And how do we not get out of fellowship? By putting up with them? And how do we 'put up' with them?

By the power of the Holy Spirit. How do we tap into the power of the Holy Spirit? By faith. 1 Corinthians 2:4-5

1 Corinthians 2:4 and my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power,

1 Corinthians 2:5 so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God.

And when you exhibit this forbearing with one another you **walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called.** (Ephesians 4:1)

Put Up With One Another
Colossians 3:13

What is so difficult for many believers is to realize that other believers are not all that wonderful. And then they realize, that they themselves are not all that wonderful and others have to ‘put up’ with them. Do others have to ‘put up’ with you? Be honest and don’t deceive yourself. Are there things about you that others in your family, your work, your social life, your church have to ‘put up’ with in their relationship with you?

Is everything to be tolerated?

The question arises: are there levels of toleration? Of course!

1. A parent will tolerate in their own children what they will condemn in others. However, a wise, caring parent will be careful not to tolerate or put up with conduct from their own children that may become injurious as a practice.
2. It has been well pointed out that what has been allowed — put up with — by a parent or even society from indiscretion will soon be claimed as a right of the child or citizen or alien. And soon the parent or the society or even the church are faced with uncontrollable immorality as in America.
3. For a while homosexuals or improper dress or improper behavior or drugs was from indiscretion of parents and of government tolerated, where today these are claimed as ‘rights’ which of course does not make them right before God.
4. No earthly authoritative structure as the home or church or government has the right to tolerate or put up with any behavior forbidden by the Word of God. When it does that, home, church, or society is headed for loss of its own existence, they will self-

Put Up With One Another
Colossians 3:13

destruct, and after prolonged ignoring the Word of God of receiving the wrath of God. Do you really think God is going to allow such indiscretion and sinful behavior continue in this country? If He does, then does He not owe Sodom an apology!!!

5. When these abuses are allowed to creep in under the banner of ‘toleration’ and take deep roots in that institution, it is most difficult if not impossible (Hebrews chapter 6) to bring about reform or a return to the established norms and standards without endangering the very existence of the institution itself (study of the history of Israel in the Old Testament).
6. When abuses are not grievous to the future of that person or of the institution, tolerance, or putting up with them is the scope of our study.
7. But the church is to be very careful as to what it will ‘put up’ with or tolerate. We should not tolerate unsound teaching of the Word of God.

2 Corinthians 11:19 For you, being so wise, (said sarcastically, for they are acting in an unwise manner) tolerate the foolish gladly.

2 Corinthians 11:20 For you tolerate it if anyone enslaves you, anyone devours you, anyone takes advantage of you, anyone exalts himself, anyone hits you in the face.

Put Up With One Another
Colossians 3:13

We all tolerate, put up with more from a close family member than we will tolerate in others. And this is the whole point of **one another** in our passage. People, it may not have occurred to you, but we are to regard all other believers as close family members. In the family of Christ, why we are to ‘put up’ with one another?

1. All believers in the Church Age – the one sitting next to you, the ones at home, in your family, regardless of race, sex or economic status, the ones you don’t like, the ones you do like, the ones who rub you the wrong way whatever it may be — all believers in the Church Age belong to the family of Jesus Christ. They are your joint heirs. Do you ‘put up’ with your earthly family members? How much more should we ‘put up’ with our eternal family members in Christ?
2. By the regeneration of the Holy Spirit all believers from Adam to the Church Age were made members of the Family of God. But, beginning on the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit does something additional. He baptizes everyone who believes in Jesus Christ as Savior, into Union with Jesus Christ. And this should make a big difference in how you interact with one another, how you ‘put up’ with one another.
3. The doctrine of the Baptism of Holy Spirit is not just a doctrine of our eternal security in Christ. It plays an important role in our interrelationships with one another. Think about it: you were not born into some other family where you would not have to put up with who is now your brother or sister or children or parents. No,

Put Up With One Another
Colossians 3:13

we grow up learning to ‘put up’ with our own family members. Well, the same principle holds true in our spiritual family.

We are different than all believers of the Old Testament; different than Adam and Eve; different than Abraham and Moses; different than Gentile believers in the Age of Israel like Nebuchadnezzar.

Regeneration is the basis for Eternal Salvation, but Baptism of Holy Spirit is the basis for being an eternal member of the family of Jesus Christ. The basis for being a member of the family of Christ in the Church Age is the Baptism of the Holy Spirit and the result is union with Christ. You are much more closely united with other believers than with unbelievers who are members of your earthly family. Believers in the Church Age are unique compared to any other dispensation: you are in Union with Jesus the Christ (i.e. the Messiah). This is why we have a unique way of life that we are studying in Colossians chapter 3. This is why we are to ‘put up’ with one another.

4. While Jesus Christ was alone on the cross, God the Father had to provide for Him a body or a bride — a family — unique to Him. The Godhead said about the first Adam ‘not good that he should be alone.’ God the Father said the same thing about Jesus Christ as the last Adam. And by the way, homosexuality and lesbianism is a blasphemous attack against the Plan of God, the design of God and the marriage of Jesus Christ to His bride — The Church.
5. Through the baptism of the Holy Spirit every believer in the Church Age is entered into union with Jesus Christ and therefore become the body of Christ.

Put Up With One Another
Colossians 3:13

Don't get so caught up in the First Advent of Christ that you lose sight of the glory of being in Him and with Him for all eternity and live in that perspective right now with one another. Believers in this Dispensation are called the Body of Christ.

6. Being the Body of Christ does two important things to each one of us: First this makes us personally related to Jesus Christ, to the King of Kings. Secondly this makes each one of us personally related to one another and therefore we should live with one another in a familial way, that is we are to 'put up' with one another. The family you are born into makes a big difference in how you will live with those people in your own family. And yes, it can get really difficult in a family, remember the first murder was a brother murdering his brother. This is just another reason why God supplies every believer in the Church Age with the indwelling of the Holy Spirit because we have to 'put up' with one another. The indwelling of the Holy Spirit is a seal for this unprecedented family in human history. Never before in history has the third person of the Trinity indwelt every believer. One of the purposes of this indwelling of God the Holy Spirit is so that we can live with one another in Spiritual Love which means among other things we are able to 'put up' with one another.
7. When the Body of Christ is completed, the rapture of the Church, then the Church Age terminates and the body becomes His Bride forever!

**Put Up With One Another
Colossians 3:13**

Ephesians 4:2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another

with all humility fruit of Holy Spirit; submit to the authority of God, not exult self; opposite of arrogance and selfishness and conceit;

and gentleness, correcting others without arrogance, impatience or anger

with patience, longsuffering

showing tolerance our word—to put up with; tolerate others

for one another believers in Jesus Christ

in love, in Spiritual Love which always sees a need and then meets that need with sacrifice to self for benefit of others.

Ephesians 4:3 being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

being diligent making this a priority in dealing with others

to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Principle: If believers cannot tolerate the small irritations of everyday life from one another without leaving the spiritual momentum of growing in the word and witnessing for Christ, how will they ever be able to endure real suffering of life: illnesses: cancer, death and yes, even persecutions from the world.

The Greek word is also used to ‘endure’ suffering.

Put Up With One Another
Colossians 3:13

1 Corinthians 4:12 and we toil, working with our own hands; when we are reviled, we bless; when we are persecuted, we endure;

You can see from this usage of our word that it means to endure physical persecution without retaliating or without forsaking or leaving the ministry; there are many reasons why a pastor-teacher will leave the ministry to which he is called; but to do so because of persecution, while easy to understand, is not always the leading of the Holy Spirit.

An interesting circumstance of ‘putting up’ with someone is found in Acts 18 where an unbelieving proconsul is to ‘put up’ with religious Jews who have come to him to imprison if not kill Paul for teaching against their Law.

Acts 18:14 But when Paul was about to open his mouth, (to answer their attacks) Gallio (proconsul) said to the Jews, (who had brought Paul up on charges) “If it were a matter of wrong or of vicious crime, O Jews, it would be reasonable for me to put up with you;

This is one of the reasons why in 1 Corinthians 6 we are exhorted not to go to unbeliever courts to handle personal problems. But in matters of wrong or crime it is authorized.

Col. 3:13 bearing with one another or putting up with one another

Let’s not lose sight of why we are to be characterized by all these virtues.

**Put Up With One Another
Colossians 3:13**

Colossians 3:1 we are raised up with Christ therefore—keep seeking the things above;...

Colossians 3:2 set your mind – your thinking on things above...

Colossians 3:3 For -- you have died and your life is hidden with Christ...

Colossians 3:5 Therefore consider the members of your earthly body dead to immorality

Colossians 3:8 Also put aside mental attitude sins

Colossians 3:12 As elect in Christ, holy and beloved...

Colossians 3:12 ...Put On a heart of compassion

Colossians 3:12 ...Kindness, humility, gentleness and longsuffering

Colossians 3:13 Bearing with or putting up with one another...

Be careful what you tolerate. You are teaching people how to treat you.

Next: Forgiving Each Other