

#tribe | #lovefierce | Discussion Guide - *Colossians 3:12-15*

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As hard as we try, eventually it should become clear to us that it is impossible to "Do Life" alone. We need real friends who love us and we need friends who "truth" us from time to time too.

We Need Real Community, because we need people in our lives that accept us for who we really are. Without them, our isolation in life becomes unbearable. We also need people to whom we can give acceptance. We need people who will help us, even encourage us to grow. And, above all, we need to be around people for whom Jesus Christ is THE priority.

We also need the REAL GOSPEL, because the Gospel's primary design is to fix relationships. (Remember that whole "Love God, Love others as Yourself" thing. [Mark 12:30-31](#))

Community gives us a place to live out the practical applications of the Good News! And the more diverse that community is the better the Gospel works. When we live the Good News, rather than just talk about it, racism, prejudice, and judgement give way to Jesus Christ. ([Col 3:11](#)). Such a "tribe", as we have named them in this series, will give your life resiliency and richness.

Colossians 3:12-15 (NLT) Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. 13 Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. 14 Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony. 15 And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful.

Your Tribe Takes #space - "you must clothe yourselves... 13 Make allowance" (12-13)

Your Tribe takes Space on your Calendar. If you don't have time, you can't have a tribe. This is why the Bible author penned this verse for our reflection.

Hebrews 10:25 (NLT) And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.

It's okay to have a full life but a "Busy Life" is another matter. There is no rule that states, "*She who dies having accomplished the most stuff WINS!*" "Busyness" is a sickness of the heart fed by insecurity, guilt and shame. Don't be a casualty.

"Overcommitment and exhaustion are the most insidious and pervasive marriage killers you will ever encounter as a couple." - James Dobson.

The same could be said for all important relationships, so remember, you are in charge of your calendar. At the end of the day, you are the one who lets everything take its space.

Your Tribe Takes #patience - "you must clothe yourselves with ... patience" (12)

Your tribe is about Harmony not Echoes. We like echo chambers in our lives. By that, we mean that we like to be affirmed in everything we already believe by the people we allow in our lives. But,

we should note that human beings generally have narrow belief systems. Our comprehension of the larger world in which we live is generally very small.

Romans 14:19 (NLT) So then, let us aim for harmony in the church and try to build each other up.

One author commenting on this subject agreed with this scripture when they wrote, "A *healthy tribe makes room for the neurotic, for the quirky, for weakness as well as for leadership and beauty. Your tribe isn't about sameness, it's about resonance.*"

Two of the most powerful tools to aid in our patience for those in our tribe are acceptance and grace. Acceptance changes people, it is why we hunger for a community. When we accept people we become an influence in their lives. When they accept us they become an influence in ours. And grace is truly powerful stuff. Grace is by its nature and definition "undeserved". When we treat people with grace we are meeting their needs without the concern of whether it was "earned". The power in such kindness is immeasurable and far reaching.

Your Tribe is #HOME! - "For as members of one body you are called to live in peace" (15)

As followers of Christ, we actually no longer belong here. This world is no longer our home. The idea that "Life is short" no longer applies to us. (That's AWESOME!!!)

Hebrews 13:14 (NLT) For this world is not our permanent home; we are looking forward to a home yet to come.

But You DO Belong... We belong to God, to Christ's Body (the church), and to each other.

2 Timothy 2:19 (NLT) But God's truth stands firm like a foundation stone with this inscription: "The Lord knows those who are his," and "All who belong to the Lord must turn away from evil."

Our Tribe is our Home while here on this earth. We need each other. God doesn't want you going it alone. Jesus died for so much more than faith in isolation. So please consider, who do you #lovefierce? Who do you give SPACE in your life? Who do you give *Patience*? And, WHO is HOME for you? Find your #TRIBE!!! And, love them as hard as you can!!!

Discussion:

- What are a few personal thoughts you may have regarding a healthy Christ-centered community? What might it look like? How is your small group doing as your #tribe?
- Review **Colossians 3:12-15**. Discuss these scriptures.
- Discuss how "the Gospel" helps and heals relationships. How could we better apply it?
- What is the difference between a FULL or BUSY life? Is your life FULL or BUSY? Why?
- Discuss the James Dobson quote above. Do you agree? Does it apply to all relationships?
- Discuss **Romans 14:19**. What is the difference between a harmonious group of people and an "echo chamber"?
- Discuss Acceptance. How could you be more accepting? What hinders acceptance?
- Why does God want us to see ourselves as strangers on this earth? Does such an impression make a "tribe" more or less important? Who is your tribe?
- Did anything stand out in your reading today that you could share with someone else?