

## **UNIFYING CHURCH MEMBERSHIP**

May 31, 2020 Colossians 3:12-17

Story about a church looking for a new pastor from Pastor Jo Anne Taylor. I know no church is perfect but what difference does Jesus make in your life? Or in our church? **Here's how you can be a unifying church member.** Colossians 3:12-17

### **1. Keep a crystal clear identity – I know I am a member of the Body of Christ**

- “Christ is all and is in all.” Col. 3:11 Everyone is welcome here. Jesus means everything to me!
- “Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved...” Col. 3:12
- I will speak & act different with God’s help because I want to be like Jesus.
- I will not gossip or cause dissension in the church, the bride of Christ.

### **2. Love is spoken here – John 13:34-35, Colossians 3:14 Building bridges...**

- Compassion is a tenderhearted mercy, sympathy & empathy.
- Kindness is that compassion in action. “I was hungry, thirsty, a stranger...”
- Humility does not demand its rights. Puts God & others first.
- Gentleness or meekness is the opposite of rudeness & abrasiveness. Self-control when it is easy to get defensive and fight.
- Patience with others. God is patient with you.
- Bearing with each other instead of pointing out their faults.
- Forgiving when hurt. Letting go the hurt. Ray Stedman says it has 3 parts to it.
- Peaceful – Jesus said he is giving us his peace. John 14:27
- Thankful – “Be thankful...giving thanks to God the Father through him (Col. 3:15 & 18)
- Read the 2<sup>nd</sup> covenant in unison, p. 30, “I Am a Church Member”