

Hope Presbyterian Church
Sermon-Based Bible Study Group



August 20, 2023 - "Peace" - #1 in the series Confronting Conflict

Texts Referenced: Colossians.3:12-17, Romans 12:18

1. What stood out to you about the message?
2. Think about the frequency and types of conflicts we may encounter in just one day - and the strategies we may engage to avoid them, such as pleasing people to avoid upsetting them.
 - What are the most difficult types of conflict you've experienced?
 - What are important lessons you've learned over time about your response to conflicts?
3. **Read Colossians. 3: 12-14**
 - Why is Paul's advice about responding to conflict - in this case, involving a faith community - not usually our first or natural response to conflicts?
 - What does Paul's metaphor to "clothe ourselves" mean in the types of conflict responses he advises?
 - How do you interpret Paul's urging to "bear with each other" when confronting conflict?
4. **Read Colossians. 3: 15-17.**
 - How do these verses help us understand that peace should be the decision-maker in confronting a conflict?
 - Paul suggests gratitude's role in arriving at peace and that specific strategies - using psalms, hymns, and songs - could be helpful in reaching peace through gratitude.
 - What strategies have you found helpful when you're dealing with a conflict?
5. **Read Romans 12:18.**
 - How do we arrive at an understanding that the person we may be in conflict with is more important than the conflict?
6. How can we pray for you?