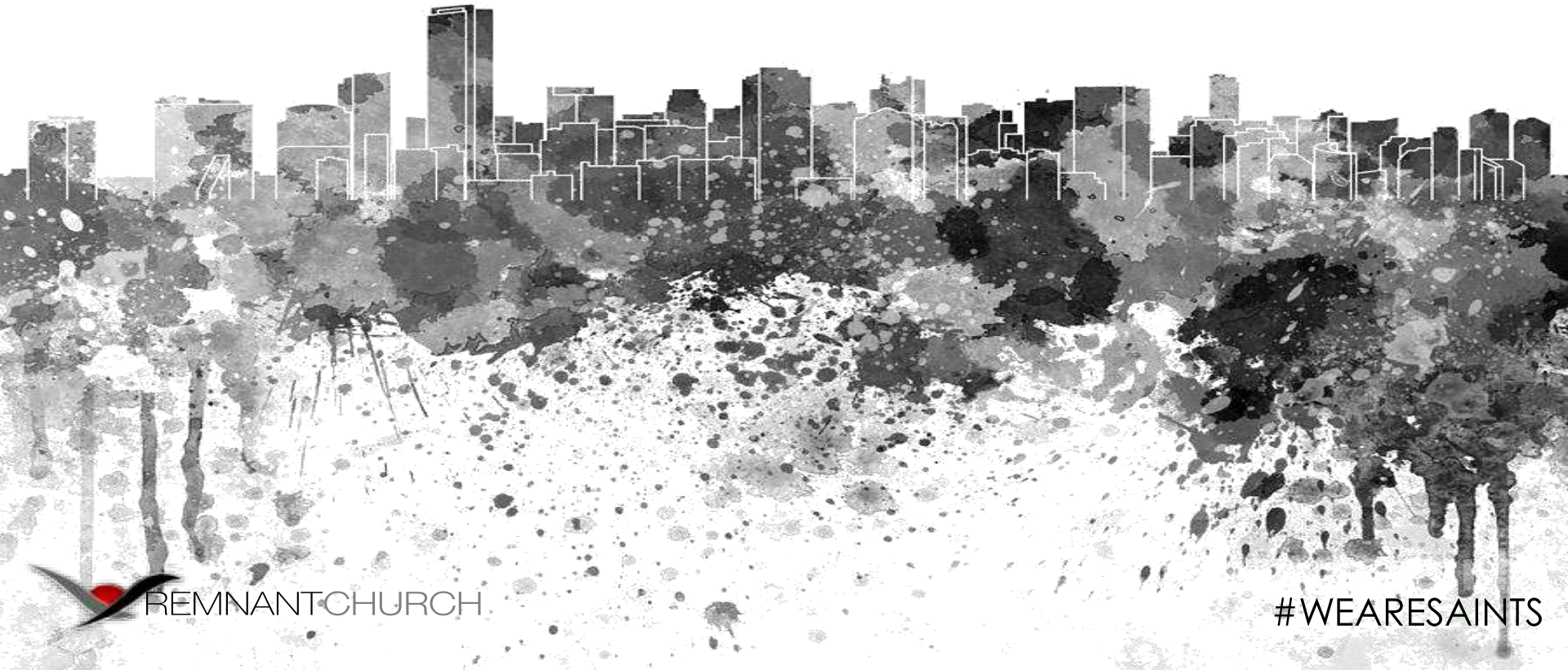


Saints Forgive

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COLOSSIANS 3:12-15



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“I Can’t Forgive”



Colossians 3:12-15 (NKJV)

*12 Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering;
13 bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.*



Colossians 3:12-15 (NKJV)

14 But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. 15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.



Worth a Glance Back

Colossians 3:12A

“Therefore”,

What Paul wrote in the Book of Colossians is not vague... we don't have to guess about how we are supposed to live out our lives “in Christ”

Colossians 3 lays it all out there in black and white... who we are “in Christ” and how we are to live as “Saints”.



Colossians 3:1-4

1 If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. 2 Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. 3 For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.



Colossians 3:5-7

5 Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. 6 Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, 7 in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them.



Colossians 3:8-10.

8 But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. 9 Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, 10 and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him...



Who God Says We Are!

Colossians 3:12B

“the elect of
God, holy and
beloved”

The thought in Colossians 3:12B is that the “elect” must love much because we have already been shown much love.

In other words – we must pass on to others what we have already received ourselves.

It is not “optional”



Is that not exactly like what a “Saint” is?

“Saints are men and women through whom the light of God’s love and character shine into this world.”

Paul agrees in Colossians and says...If we are “in Christ”, then we “represent Christ”



What WE Wear

Colossians 3:12C

“put on
tender mercies,
kindness, humility,
meekness,
longsuffering”;

Paul says “put on” these Godly attributes...

Give some thought to these things because when the world looks at you in different situations...

what do others see on you?



What WE Bear

Colossians 3:13A

“bearing with one another”,

Bear - to be patient with, to receive, take up, endure. (MW)

One thing that will really help you as a Christian is to start to understand and accept that in community, lots of times, we will live in some degree of discomfort...

Bearing with one another will not always be easy or feel good.



Colossians 3:13B

“and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you”,

A person will always struggle with forgiveness until they understand and accept as truth for themselves that they alone, and the amount of sin they carry, required God to put Jesus on the cross.

It is very difficult to pass along forgiveness to others if you don't feel like very much needed to be forgiven in you.



Colossians 3:13C

“so you also
must do”.

Forgiveness is a really big deal to God and an unwillingness to do so is clearly disobedience in God's eyes.

Our hurt...our pain...or our need for justice are never allowed to dictate terms on if or when we ever forgive someone.



What WE Share

Colossians 3:14

“But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection”

- *It might not be pretty, but let's find a way to get down the road together.*
- *Let's not have too many disagreements over "preferences".*

Paraphrased... "But above all things love enough to forgive often and judge others leniently, which will help us stay in fellowship with each other".



What We Receive

Colossians 3:15A

And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body;

- *How's your level of peace?
...don't have any?*
- *How's your level pain?
....feeling enslaved?*

Check your alignment with how you're doing with this and other Scriptures regarding "forgiveness"

Maybe we are hanging on to things that we don't even realize that we are hanging on to.



Steps to Our Freedom

- *Be careful to not be so introspective.*
- *Don't compare where you are at to others.*
- *Being nice is not forgiveness...*
 - you must find a way to forgive completely*
- *Get out of the repayment business...*
 - you need to leave the outcomes in God's hands.*
- *Be grateful - even in the discomfort of it all...*
 - it is God's way of revealing things we need to work on.*
- *Trust in the process that God has allowed for you in this season.*



How We Receive

Colossians 3:15A

“and be thankful”

*There is always, always, always,
something to be thankful for.*

*If anyone wants to walk in deep
intimacy with God and be in a
place where we find great
blessing...no matter what is
happening in your life, chose into
lots of gratitude and forgiveness.*



Closing Thoughts

Ephesians 2:13-14

“But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace”

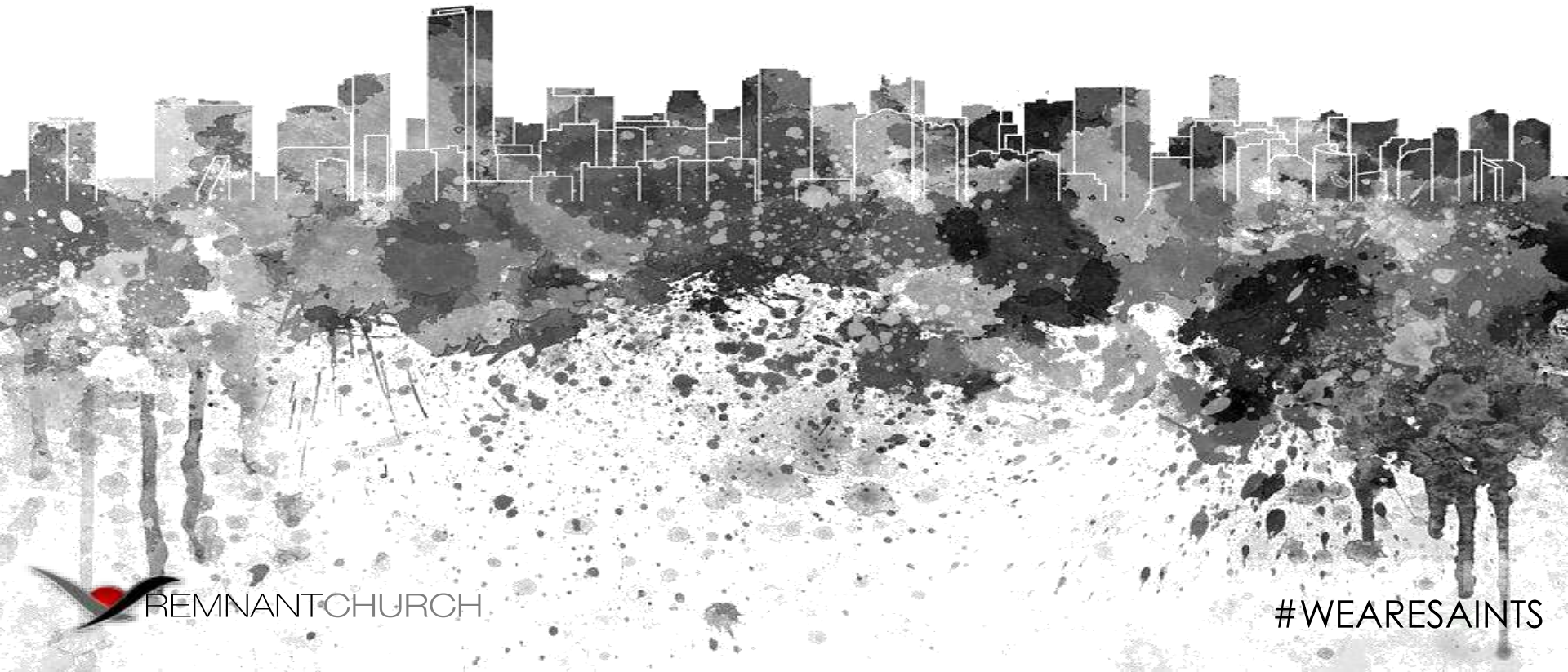
Peace and ease are never the end game for the Christian... being in alignment with what God directs us to do is.

When we realize God himself is the prize and pursue him in everyway...the result will be that an unexplainable grace and real peace can and will hit our lives.



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