



Ghosts Of Christmas Past

Week One: *Letting Go of Offenses to Embrace Forgiveness*

Colossians 3:12-15

Life is too short to live offended.

THIS SERIES—focuses on what it means to let go of the “ghosts” of our past as we lean expectantly into the new things God is bringing to the world and to our lives.

Know someone who is easily offended? Are you that person?

Things that offend me—in no particular order

There are a hundred little things every day...

WHAT ABOUT THE BIG THINGS - The offenses that hit you deeply

Betrayal, Abuse, Holidays ruined, Families divided, Addictions

What do we do to let go of these ghosts?

LIFE IS TOO SHORT TO LIVE OFFENDED

Colossians 3:12-15

- A little bit of background on the Church at Colosse
- The imagery that Paul uses here is interesting—putting on new clothes
- Compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience outfit
- Forgive “as the Lord forgave you,” what kind of forgiveness are we talking
- Love above all—the kind of love that causes you to decrease...
- The peace of Christ “rule” - Peace gets the big chair in your heart

Paul wants his reader to go out of their way to let go of offenses and embrace forgiveness—way out of their way.

Stop Being Easily Offended

Assume the Best - Give the benefit of the doubt:

Begin to truly see others

Not everything is about you—it’s hard for us to see this

Work Toward Getting Over The Big Things

Get rid of the playback reel in your head...

Find the resurrection moments in the midst of the pain

Give yourself a break

LIFE IS TOO SHORT TO LIVE OFFENDED



SERMON EXTRAS & FURTHER READING

FOR FURTHER READING:

Desmond Tutu and Mpho Tutu

The Book of Forgiving

Sidney & Suzanne Simon

Forgiveness: How to Make Peace with Your Past and Get On With Your Life

D. atrick Miller

The Way of Forgiveness: Letting Go, Easing Stress and Building Strength

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DAILY DEVOTIONALS THIS WEEK:

The daily devotionals will be posted on Pastor Leon’s blog, linked on his Tumblr account, the church’s Facebook Page and Twitter.