

First Missionary Baptist Church Adult Bible Study

A CULTURE OF LOVE

The ING's of Christian Relationships

March 11, 2026

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Introduction: Love Fuels Reconciliation

Key Thought: Reconciliation and restoration must flow from a heart of love.

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"Above all, have fervent love for one another, for love will cover a multitude of sins."

— 1 Peter 4:8

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"Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up."

— 1 Corinthians 13:4

Series Context: Conquering Congregational Conflict



Series *"Conquering Congregational Conflict: Pursuing & Achieving Reconciliation and Restoration"*

Big Idea The outworking of love is multi-dimensional and requires willful, repeated actions to be effective.



Practice Posture

| Faithfully

| Patiently

| Prayerfully

| Unconditionally



The Goal

Make these practices habit-forming so our church culture truly becomes a ***culture of love***.

The ING's: Our Love-in-Action Practices

Seven ongoing practices (present, continuous action) to build a culture of love



Longsuffering

Colossians 3:12



Forbearing

Colossians 3:13



Forgiving

Colossians 3:13



Going

Matthew 18:15



Reconciling

1 Thess 5:13



Admonishing

1 Thess 5:14



Enduring

1 Thess 5:14



Practice 1

Longsuffering

(makrothymia)

Colossians 3:12

Definition

Long-tempered; opposite of quick anger or retaliation; the state of *remaining tranquil while awaiting an outcome*.

Grammar Note

Noun — A virtue or garment we are commanded to "put on" as God's chosen people.

Practical Application

- Choose patience over reaction when wronged or offended.
- Let love intentionally lengthen your fuse in the midst of conflict.



Practice 2

Forbearing

(anechō)

Colossians 3:13

Definition

To bear with; hold up; *endure something unpleasant or difficult* without retaliation.

Grammar Note

Present Participle — Denotes an ongoing, continuous action. Keep actively bearing with one another.

Practical Application

- Make intentional space for others' weaknesses and shortcomings.
- Stay emotionally and relationally engaged without harboring resentment.



Practice 3

Forgiving

(charizomai)

Colossians 3:13

Definition

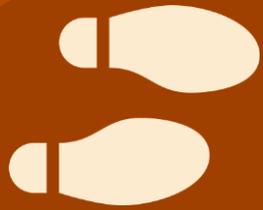
To *give graciously*, bestow favor unconditionally, and to release someone without requiring payback.

Grammar Note

Present Ongoing Action — Keep forgiving continually, just as the Lord forgave you.

Practical Application

- Cancel the relational debt and release the offense fully.
- Offer grace freely before it is even asked for.



Practice 4

Going

(hypagō)

Matthew 18:15

Definition

Move toward; depart from one place to another direction
— *take initiative to restore.*

Grammar Note

Present Imperative — active continuous action; keep going to your brother or sister.

→ Practical Application

- Don't wait; actively pursue private, loving conversation with the intent to heal.
- Aim for clarity and reconciliation, not personal victory or winning an argument.



Practice 5

Reconciling / Be at Peace

(eirēneuō)

1 Thessalonians 5:13

Definition

To live in *harmonious relationships*; to enjoy freedom from disputes with others.

Grammar Note

Present, Imperative — A command to continually and actively maintain peace among yourselves.

Practical Application

- Prioritize congregational unity over personal preferences.
- Become a peacemaker who actively bridges divides.



Practice 6

Admonishing

(noutheteō)

1 Thessalonians 5:14

Definition

To *warn, counsel, or correct* toward right living; to advise of dangerous consequences through loving truth-telling.

Grammar Note

Verb — Active voice, present tense, imperative mood: Keep admonishing the idle/unruly.

Practical Application

- Speak truth in love, always aiming at the ultimate goal of restoration.
- Pair correction with encouragement and hope for the individual's growth.



Practice 7

Enduring / Longsuffering

(makrothymeō)

1 Thessalonians 5:14

Definition

To exhibit *internal and external self-control* in difficult circumstances. Staying steady under pressure.

Grammar Note

Verb, active voice, present tense, imperative — Keep being patient with everyone.

Practical Application

- Stay steady under pressure and provocation.
- Let the Spirit set your pace, not the problem.

Putting It All Together: A Culture of Love

Key Takeaways

- Love is both the **motive** and the **method** of genuine reconciliation.
- Practice the ING's continually until they become your spiritual reflex.

Closing Thought

"Love covers, bears, forgives, goes, reconciles, admonishes, and endures — until Christ is fully formed in us and in our fellowship."

This Week's Next Steps



Pray daily for a soft, forgiving heart.
(Colossians 3:12-13)



Go to one person to reconcile or clear an offense.
(Matthew 18:15)



Make peace and admonish with gentleness.
(1 Thessalonians 5:13-14)