

# STUCK-IT-ITIS

## I. Ephesians 2:13-14 - “*Jesus broke down the barrier of the dividing wall.*”

### A. **Many Christians have barriers in their lives that keeps them from experiencing all that God has for them.**

1. A Barrier keeps you from something or keeps something from you.
2. **A Barrier will block Spiritual growth and progress - Matthew 18:18**
3. A Barrier will keep you from giving the way you want and from receiving what you need. (Sargent Heath)

### B. **Most barriers that arise in our lives are relational barriers.**

1. We were all brought near by the blood of Christ.
2. **If I could sum up all of the Bible in one word, I would use “*Relationship.*”**
3. Matthew 22:37-40 - The vertical and the horizontal are eternally linked together, what happens in one surfaces in the other.
4. **Biblical righteousness is relational. Matthew 5:17 - Romans 13:8&10 & Gal 5:14**

## II. Colossians 3:12-14

### A. **“*bearing with one another*” means to endure the problems that arise in all relationships.**

1. It means to learn to put up with people you can't change
2. **It means we need to learn to love the people you are stuck with.**
3. It's what I call “stuckititis,” which is a combination of two words “stuck meaning trapped” and “ititis” being the six letters you tag on to any word you want to sound impressive.
  - a. **All of us know the claustrophobia that comes with commitment.**
    - 1) She is your wife, or he is your husband
    - 2) **He or she is your child**
    - 3) That is your church and he or she is your brother or sister in Christ.

b. Stuckitis is something we are volunteer for.

**c. All relationships require loyalty for survival.**

B. There are only three ways to deal with “stuckitis” - Flee, Fight, or Forgive.

1. **Most opt to flee**

a. To get out of the relationship and to start again elsewhere.

**b. Though they are surprised when the condition surfaces wherever they go.**

c. Real commitment doesn't leave you this option. (Church in Orlando)

**d. If God led you into a relationship He knew what was awaiting you.**

2. Others fight

**a. Relationships become combat zones**

b. Tension becomes a way of life

**c. They fight to vindicate themselves**

d. They want to be right more than they want to be reconciled

3. **A few discover the on real cure for “stuckitis” forgiveness.**

a. *“Just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.”* - We are to be like Jesus.

**1) Oh I could never do that, the hurt is too deep.**

2) The wounds are too many.

**3) Just seeing the person causes be to cringe.**

b. That's because you are looking at the wrong person .

**1) Remember, the secret of being just like Jesus is “fixing our eyes on Him”**

2) You need to shift our glance from the one who hurt you and fix your eyes on the one who saved you.

**c. You need to remember that Jesus gazed upon the darkest acts of your life**

1) Instead of recoiling in horror.

**2) He reached out in kindness**

d. Because He lives in us, you and I can do the same

**4. Jesus, Himself, knew the feeling of being stuck with someone. For 3 years He ran with the same crew.**

a. How did Jesus stay devoted to these men?

**b. How was He able to love people who were hard to like**

C. The answer to these questions are found in John 13:1-5

**1. Jesus washes our feet for two reasons.**

a. The first is to give us mercy and the second is to give us a message

**b. The mercy of Christ preceded our mistakes and our mercy must precede the mistakes of others**

c. Those in the circle of Christ had no doubt of His love and Those in our circles should have no doubts about ours.

**2. To have a heart like His means to touch the grimy parts of the people we are stuck with, washing away their unkindness with kindness.**

a. A lot of us won't because we are not the guilty party.

**1) We weren't the ones who lied or cheated.**

2) You probably not - but neither was Jesus

**b. Of all the men in that room, only one was worthy of having His feet washed**

c. The one worthy of being served, served others

**d. The genius of Jesus' example is that:**

1) The burden of bridge-building falls on the strong one, not the weak one.

**2) The one who is innocent is the one who makes the gesture.**

3) Relationships don't thrive because the guilty are punished

**4) But because the innocent are merciful.**