

Rhythm of Grace:

Fellowship, The Inward Community

13 Sep 2026

This Sunday we heard a little about some of the people Fabian met while walking the Camino.

People coming from all over the world, speaking different languages and carrying very different stories.

Yet strangers could quickly become companions.

Something similar happens in Christian community.

Reflect

We don't come together because we are all alike. We have different personalities, backgrounds, experiences, opinions, abilities and struggles.

Ephesians 4:1–7, 11–16 is Paul's movement from what God has done for us to how we therefore live together.

The "calling" of verse 1 is not primarily an individual vocation but the shared calling of the whole church. The unity Paul urges is not something Christians create by agreeing on everything; it is something God has already given through "one body...one Spirit...one Lord, one faith, one baptism."

Our task is to preserve and embody that unity through humility, gentleness, patience and bearing with one another.

Colossians 3:12–17 presents Christian community as the visible expression of a life already transformed by grace.

Paul begins not with commands but identity: Christians are "God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved."

As a consequence of this new identity, they are to clothe themselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

These virtues are relational: they become real precisely when people have to bear with one another, forgive one another and choose love.

The repeated emphasis on *one another* shows that Christian maturity is not merely private holiness; it is something formed in relationship.

Respond

Take a moment to still yourself.

Pause, breath in and out a few times, remember that you are dearly loved by God. Before you do anything for him, before you get anything right, before you have anything to offer, you are loved.

Let that truth sink in.

Think about the people God has placed around you. Some are easy to walk alongside. Others may challenge you, frustrate you, or see the world very differently from you.

Pause

Difficult relationships have the potential to shape you—to build in you patience, humility, compassion and the grace to make room for another person.

Paul calls us to “*bear with one another in love.*” This is more than simply putting up with someone. It is choosing to remain alongside them, making space for their weakness and difference, just as God makes space for ours.

So, as you sit with God, perhaps ponder the following question:
Where is God inviting me to receive his grace more deeply, and where might he be inviting me to let that grace flow through me towards someone else?

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, thank you that you have welcomed me by grace. Teach me to walk with humility, patience, kindness and love, receiving others as gifts and bearing with Christian pilgrims as we journey with you.

Amen.