

# DEEPER GRACE: EXERCISE THREE

*God's grace is not an abstraction. It's not an idea or a concept. Jesus has given us a real-life laboratory to encounter God's grace in new (and repeated) ways. Where can we receive—and give—the grace of God? The answer may surprise you.*

## Review the text



*Be still*

*Invite the Holy Spirit*

*Breathe*

Don't hurry: Wait until you're confident the Spirit is poised to help you in this exercise.

Read Colossians 3:1-17. The passage speaks first of dealing with the enemies of grace. Then look carefully at verses 12-17: do you see the invitation to a grace-filled life lived in Christian community?

We cannot engage in these behaviors apart from relationships with others.

## Reach Beyond Yourself

*This is not idealism: God has provided a real-life setting for grace to exist. It's his church.*

It's impossible to live out these verses apart from a life in community with others. Ask God for the grace to break free from a life of isolation and self seeking.

If you see the need for community, ask the Holy Spirit to reveal your place at the table. Perhaps you need to find a community; perhaps you need to find your place within your existing community.

Where has God set the table for you?  
He is faithful: he will lead you home.



## Search for Your Home



*Search it Out:*

Search for your home, your family, and your place at the table. Keep in mind that the object of a search is finding. Jesus promised "Everyone who seeks, finds."

***SOME THINGS TAKE A LIFETIME:  
Grace grows steady, slow, and sure. The grace of community bears fruit (again and again) after decades of rootedness.***

***Modern life works against God's pace of planting, growing, harvesting, and planting again. There's a part of God's grace we cannot experience apart from sharing the years and our lives with the same group of people.***