

Devotion 8



Colossians 3: 12-17

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful.

Inspired by Desmond Tutu

Ubuntu is a highly sought-after attribute meaning someone who is generous, magnanimous, hospitable, welcoming, affirming of others. It's a Southern African word which could easily be applied to Nelson Mandela, who emerged from 27 years' incarceration preaching forgiveness and reconciliation.

Throughout the rest of his life, he exemplified graciousness, concern and caring. And it's that care for others – that none of us can be totally self-sufficient – that points us back to the second creation story in Genesis when God declares that it's not good that man should be alone. We are made for togetherness, created for a deliberate network of interdependence, of complementarity, of family – the human family, God's family. It was Martin Luther King who said: 'Unless we learn to live together as brothers and sisters, we will perish together as fools!'

My Reflections

Lord Jesus, may I be a vessel of God's grace given by the work of your power. To you be glory in my life, in the church and in Christ Jesus, to all generations, forever and ever. Amen." (adapted from Ephesians 3: 7, 20)