

## Walk with Me! Pt 4

### Colossians 3:12-17

- In the last three weeks we've learned that we're "**who we are**" (children of God), "**what we are**" (God's church) and "**why we're here**" (to worship and represent God), today we're going to learn "**how we should live**". But just knowing that you're a **child of God**, a **part of His church**, and expecting **to worship** and **represent Him on earth** won't mean much, if you don't know how this knowledge when applied correctly changes how you ought to think and act in your daily life.
- This is what we'll look at today how being "**a child of God**, "**a part of His church**" "**a representative of Him on earth**" makes you and I different than everyone else around us. We're told that we are just like everyone else but not according to God's Word, as the bible is clear that all people are God's creation made from His image **Col 1:16**, and that God loves the entire world **Jn 3:16**, but only those who are born again are children of God > **Gal 3:26**, **Rom 8:16**.
- So folks you're different whether you want to be or not, and God sees us differently than everyone else, just like a parent sees their specific children in a room filled with other children differently. An example of this is a coach who has a kid on the team, he tries to treat everyone the same, but when it comes to his child they'll often coach them a little harder, expecting more from them than the others, because of the extra benefit their child has in having the coach and all that comes with that, around them more than the other players! Therefore he's expecting that to show in their attitude, character, and ultimately their performance on the court or field.
- **Col 3:12-17** in the previous verses Paul urged his readers to "**put off the old man**" and to "**put on the new man**" by allowing our minds and how differently we think to change our hearts and how we behave. These verses draw an outline as to how that should look in the believer's daily life. **V12** begins by saying that the new man is "**the elect of God**" meaning we belong to God as he has chosen us to be in His family. Elect is a word that frightens some, but it should bring both comfort and relief knowing that God has not left anything to chance He alone knows it all.
- Because we now belong to Him we cannot act anyway that we feel no matter how we're being treated by others, for it's a reflection upon who we are as children of God, therefore God tells us in these next three verses the qualities we're to model and express in all of our personal relationships. **1<sup>st</sup> Tender mercies**- means bonds of compassion towards others and what they're going through, we no longer have the right not to care about anyone or anything that doesn't directly or indirectly affect me, everything around you affects you because it affects God. I was very good at saying it's none of my business and walking away well that is no longer an option

- You are now able to do this because you are a new person the old has passed away and the new has moved in, which is why we were called Holy (set apart from the world) beloved (He loves us) therefore we are to demonstrate that love by displaying compassion and mercy to others. **2<sup>nd</sup> Kindness** is the opposite of harshness, it's welcoming, **Tit 3:4** says God showed His kindness toward us by letting His love through His Son shine through our foolishness and darkness. One of the great examples of this is found in **2Sam 9** with a man named "**Mephibosheth**".
- A man who many saw as a threat to David's throne since he was the grandson of King Saul but David only saw an opportunity to fulfill his promise to Jonathan Saul's slain son who was David's very good friend and so he looked right past the threat and saw only an opportunity to express kindness which he did by letting Mephibosheth eat at his table and be in his court. **3<sup>rd</sup> Humility** is putting the needs of others above oneself; and is the parent of the next two, also it was seen as a weakness since it was the opposite of pride which was admired greatly in Paul's day.
- **4<sup>th</sup> Meekness** is not weakness but its power under control, the word describes a soothing wind, healing medicine, and a broken colt, each of these things possess power, a soothing wind can become a raging storm, healing medicine not administered correctly can harm or kill, a horse can break loose at anytime and hurt someone rather easily, but with its power under control it doesn't hurt or harm but it helps. **5<sup>th</sup> Longsuffering** is patience or long tempered.
- **V13** possessing these five things allows us to now bear with one another, which results in us being able to forgive one another, and the example we have to follow is Jesus Christ Himself. **V14** this leads to "**Love**" when love rules in us it unites all these spiritual virtues so that there is harmony and maturity, for if there's not harmony there won't be growth. **V15** Paul turns from **character** to **conduct**, if you want to know how can a Christian know if they are doing God's will here it is right here, the peace of God will be in your heart and it will bless the church.
- **V16** once the peace of God is ruling in our hearts then the Word of God will take root in the deep recesses of our being producing wisdom, teaching, and correction, along with internal and external worship, expressing the grace of God to all who are around us. **V17** now everything that we say and everything that we do, it will be done with glorifying the Lord in mind instead of benefitting, honoring or lifting up self, for instead of **selfishness** its **thankfulness** in our **hearts**.