

12 Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. **13** Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. **14** Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony. **15** And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful.

16 Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives. Teach and counsel each other with all the wisdom he gives. Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with thankful hearts. **17** And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father.

— *Colossians 3:12-17*

Discussion/Journal Questions

As you think about a gentle person, who comes to mind? What about them makes you think of gentleness.

Have two or three people read Colossians 3:12-17 out loud slowly. After a some time of reflection, ask each other what words, phrases, or ideas stand out to everyone. What questions come to mind as you meditate on this scripture?

In verse 12, what is the reason given for why we must clothe ourselves with gentleness?

When you think of God, do you think of gentleness? Why or why not?

What about Jesus? Do you associate Jesus with gentleness? Why or why not?

How does the virtue of gentleness connect with forgiveness and peace?

Do you think American culture values gentleness? Why or why not?

Do you think the American Church is known for gentleness? Why or why not?

What can you do to cultivate gentleness in your life? How can your group help?