

Colossians 3:12-17

Announcements:

- Encourage potluck (and mention Ryan music...)
- Facility updates:
 - Contract signed. Wowza!
 - Interest in our property (God stories!!) (if not, will list it...)
 - Images of new property (images: property expansion, sanctuary expansions)
 - Fundraising critical right now - money coming in - close to \$500K
 - All still a walk of faith. God could close the door. (bridge)
 - Walk through today 1:30-2:30pm (image w address)

Please open to **Colossians Chapter 3** (Need a Bible? Raise your hand, or the backs of chairs...)

- Last time: **Things to put off:** Toss out those filthy rags. The old man is dead!
- This time: **Things to put on:** The glorious robe of Christ! The new man is alive!

Message Title: Clothed in Christ

- His Character (verses 12-14)
- His Peace (verse 15)
- His Word (verse 16)
- His Name (verse 17)

We all know **clothes send a message**. You can tell the difference between someone going to the gym, a wedding/funeral, or Denny's at 1 a.m. just by what they're wearing...

- Job interview clothes communicate something - Effort. Intentionality.
- But imagine showing up to an expensive wedding in your pj's...
- We understand that **different occasions call for different attire!**
- What we wear matters—it communicates who we are and what we value.
- Soldiers and athletes on a team must dress the part and **so, too, the Christian believer.**
- From Fig Leaves to Fine Linen!

In Colossians 3, Paul says **the Christian life is like getting dressed**. Not in fancier versions of our old self, but in a completely new wardrobe—the very character of Christ Himself.

His Character (verses 12–14)

V. 12 - Therefore

- Connected to last week.
- You don't put a new suit on over the old one. **You first take the old one off!** (old rags)

V. 12 - As the elect (chosen) of God, holy and beloved

- Chosen (eklektos) (ek = out + lego = speak/call) = "chosen/called out ones"
 - I am not going deep into doctrine of election in this passage - **it's not the heartbeat**
 - **God is not surprised... He is involved... It's His grace... Not earned...**
- Holy (hagios) = "set apart/consecrated (saints)" - from the unholy common world; unto God.

- **Beloved (agapao)** = “deep, unconditional, stable, active love” - **Perfect tense** = His love is not wishy washy, but is steady and stable for we are in Christ Jesus! **Nothing can remove us!**

Here's the beautiful setup in this passage: we're clothing **from** a place of identity, not **for** it.

- You don't dress up to become God's child; you **dress appropriately BECAUSE you are His child**. God doesn't say, "Dress right and maybe I'll love you." He says, **"You are already chosen, set apart, and loved—now dress like it!"** **It's not earning, it's exuding!**

V. 12 - **Put on**

- **Enduo** - “To put on, to clothe one's self”
- **Aorist imperative** = immediate, urgent action. **Don't just admire** these garments; **wear them!**
- **Each of these virtues is found in the character of Christ!**

Full list on the screen:

- **Tender Mercies/Compassions (splachna oiktirmou)** = “bowels/heart of mercies”
 - “Gut-wrenching” empathy. Not surface-level sympathy, but **deep compassion**
 - The ancient world was brutal and merciless. **Christianity brought compassion!** (plural)
 - **Lamentations 3:22–23 - His mercies are new every morning!**
- **Kindness (chrestotes)** = “a good, friendly and actively helpful attitude”
 - Not just “nice,” but actively helpful. (**Religious and hypocritically harsh?**)
 - Small acts: texts, meals, texts, a smile, a kind word, practical help... (fruit of the Spirit)
 - **Jesus: “My yoke is easy (chrestotes)” (Matthew 11:30)**
 - **Romans 2:4 - “Kindness (chrestotes) of God” that leads us to repentance...**
 - **King David** showed kindness to **Mephibosheth (2 Sam 9:3) - Lil Fibby!**
- **Humility (tapeinophrosune)** = “modesty; lowliness of mind”
 - Greeks never applied this to themselves! It described slaves... (little value)
 - Pagan world **admired pride and domination**, not humility
 - **“Humility isn't thinking less of yourself—it's thinking of yourself less”**
 - **Christ of course is our example - Condescension of Christ (Phil 2)**
 - **“Take My yoke upon you... for I am gentle and lowly in heart” (Matthew 11:29)**
- **Meekness/Gentleness (prautes)** = “mildness of disposition, restraint”
 - Used to describe a calm wind, healing medicine, broken stallion (too much = chaos)
 - **Power under control!** Not weakness, - no taunting, calm, cool, and collected
- **Longsuffering/Patience (makrothumia)** = “long tempered, slow to vengeance”
 - Makros = long + thumos = temper (as opposed to short-tempered) - **“a long fuse!”**
 - You can put up with irritating people without retaliating/vengeance (fruit of the Spirit)
 - **God is longsuffering towards us (Romans 2:4 | 2 Peter 3)**
- **Bearing with (anechomai)** = “to sustain, hold back, or make allowance (allelon: mutually)”
 - News: **church = not perfect people**; a hospital for sinners (will let each other down)
 - **If anyone has a complaint (v. 13) - Have you ever had a church complaint? :)**
 - **Present tense** = continual practice. It's a way of life (story: pastoral bearing with)
- **Forgiving (charizomai)** = “being gracious, showing favor, granting pardon (heautou: each one)”
 - Forgiveness is surrendering the right to revenge and entrusting justice to God
 - (Life Action) “After reaching out to 4M believers in 6K churches, our team would unanimously say the **number one problem is unforgiveness**. **Bitterness is rampant.**”
 - Be careful not to allow grudges—**a molehill can grow into a volcano of malice/wrath.**

- **It doesn't mean** you *minimize reality or deny injustice*, but you do **release their debt**.
 - *Is there someone?* - *not ignoring the past, but* **do not "dwell" there**, friends
 - **Hard stuff**. Angry, bitter, resentful, hurt...

Matthew 18:21-22 - "Peter came to Jesus and said, 'Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?' Jesus said to him, 'I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to **seventy times seven**.'" - **Complete and Ongoing...**

- **Parable of the Unforgiving Servant (Matthew 18:21-35)** (10,000 talents vs 100 denarii)
- *10,000 = impossible to pay off*. Here's the question: *How (in what way) did the Lord forgive you?*
 - **Completely, Immediately, Costly (it cost Him everything)** - **This is our example!**
- We who are **debtors to such great grace** should not hesitate to "cancel the debt" of others.

V. 13 - **Even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.**

- **Kathos** = *according as, just as*, in proportion = **Christ (our Lord(Kurios))** is **our example**.
- *Matthew 6:12* - "Forgive us our debts, **as** we forgive our debtors" (**That's heavy...**)
- *Psalms 103:12* - "**As far as east is from west**, so far has He removed our transgressions"

Pause. Obviously, **this is all very challenging**. It's easy to *talk about these types of clothes*. Hard to **actually fit in them**. But, **Christ is in you, the hope of Glory**. As *chosen, holy, beloved*, **you can!**

- *By God's grace and the Spirit's enablement*, **abide in Christ and you will bear much fruit...**
- **All these garments were perfectly worn by Christ**. When we put on these graces, we're *putting on a family resemblance* to Christ. **Like wearing a team jersey** - united in comradery!

V. 14 - **But above (over) all these things put on (clothe yourselves with) love**

- **Agape** - *Genuine, active love from your new heart in Christ*.
- The "**capstone**" overarching all other Biblical standards - **belt or overcoat makes it all work!**
- You can have *moments* of *compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience*, but *without love*, they're just *separate garments (that don't make a complete unified outfit)*
- *1 Cor. 13:1-3, NIV* - "If I speak in the tongue of men or of angels, **but do not have love**, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, **but do not have love**, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, **but do not have love**, I gain nothing..."
- *Loving the Lord (Deuteronomy 6:4-5); loving your neighbor as yourself (Leviticus 19:18)*

V. 14 - Which is the **bond of perfection**

- **Sundesmos tes teleiotes** = "that which binds together moral and spiritual completeness"
 - Complete maturity, full grown or in good working order. The goal of winning a prize...
- *Romans 13:8-10, CSB* - "Do not owe anyone anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, 'Do not commit adultery; do not murder; do not steal; do not covet;' and any other commandment, are summed up by this commandment: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' Love does no wrong to a neighbor. **Love, therefore, is the fulfillment of the law.**"

His Peace (verse 15)

V. 15 - And let the **peace of God (Christ) rule** in your hearts

- **Eirene** = literally pictures binding together that which had been separated (*opposite of anxiety*)
- **Shalom** = not just absence of conflict, but **completeness, wholeness, well-being**
 - This is **a particular type of peace**, not available to the world without Christ.
- **John 14:27, ESV** - "Peace I leave with you; **my peace I give to you**. Not as the world gives do I give to you..."
- **Pause**. How can we know God's will for our lives? One answer: **the peace of Christ in the heart**
 - Do you have peace or lack peace? (*God often speaks in those ways*)
- **Rule (Brabauo)** = "to direct, control or arbitrate; to be an umpire/judge"
 - *Players argue*, but the **referee has the final word**
 - In our decisions, emotions, conflicts: let **Christ's peace blow the whistle/make the call**
 - *Imagine baseball with no umpire*. **Chaos!** "I was safe!" "No, you were out!"
- **Peace** isn't absence of trouble—it's the presence of Christ. **Let it referee your heart. (GPS)**
 - Is the "referee" anger, fear, bitterness, pride—or **Christ's peace**?

V. 15 - To which also **you were called in one body**

- In context, this isn't just individual peace; it's **peace within the church body**
- A church can be **doctrinally correct but functionally miserable** without **corporate peace**
- *Does my hand get in a fight with my foot? Does the ear contend with the eye?* (*lacking peace*)
- **Blessed are the Peacemakers** - Doesn't mean avoiding hard convo's but under Christ's rule.

V. 15 - And **be thankful (eucharistos)**

- This phrase appears **THREE times (v. 15, 16, 17)**
- **Thanksgiving is the thread** running through the entire section. **To give thanks is worship!**
- If gratitude grows, strife shrinks (**do you see roses among thorns, or thorns among roses?**)

All that said, we **must beware of false gratitude/peace**. **Our hearts can be deceived...** (*style issues*)

- So along with God's peace ruling our hearts, **we need verse 16... (The Word!)**

His Word (verse 16)

From John 3:16 to Colossians 3:16, next steps...

V. 16 - Let the **word of Christ dwell in you richly**

- **Word of Christ (logos tou Christou)** - **Christ is the Word**, All scriptures speak of Him!
- *False teachers came with man-made traditions*. **God's Word always points to Jesus Christ**
- **Dwell within (Enoikeo)** (*en = in + oikéo = dwell*) = "to take up residence, make one's home in"
- We should **live in the Word like we live in our homes**—*familiar with where everything is...*
Many Christians treat God's Word like a hotel they check into occasionally. God wants His Word to **be your HOME**—the place you live; atmosphere you breathe, **Shekinah glory in the temple!**
- **Think about your favorite song**. You've heard and sang it so many times that it's just... **in you**.
That's "**dwelling richly**"—God's Word is **so ingrained it naturally flows** out in every situation.
- **Deut 6:6-9** - "And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign

on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”

- God's Word was meant to saturate every part of Israelite life (richly!) The same is true for us.
- **Present, Active, Imperative.** = Ongoing, obedient, action - decision is yours...
- Job 23:12, ESV - “I have not departed from the commandment of his lips; I have treasured the words of his mouth more than my portion of food.”
- Jeremiah 15:16, ESV - “Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart, for I am called by your name, O Lord, God of hosts.”
 - **Hungry hippos!** - changes you... perspectives, character, demeanor, overflow...

V. 16 - In all **wisdom, teaching and admonishing** one another

- **Wisdom (Sophia)** = “the use of knowledge in diverse matters; to judge correctly”
- **Teaching (Didasko)** = “to impart instruction, instill doctrine, and to expound upon a thing”
- **Admonishing (noutheteo)** = “to counsel, warn, caution, exhort, reprove”

And, importantly, Paul uses **“you” plural**—this is **CORPORATE, not just individual.**

- **Church should be full of Scripture** (a **famine of the word**, Amos 8:11) (**entertainment?**)
- In **us, every realm of the church**, sharing it with one another. Men, women, youth, young adults, children, connect groups, counseling, potluck tonight... **should be normative!**

V. 16 - In **psalms, hymns and spiritual songs** (variety emphasized more than categories)

- **Psalms (psalmos)** = “striking the chords of a musical instrument; also, the Psalms” (OT)
- **Hymns (hymnos)** = “the praise of gods, conquerors, heroes; also, sacred religious songs”
- **Spiritual songs (pneumatikos oide)** = “songs or odes relating to the things of the Spirit”
 - (spontaneous worship?)
- Whenever the Word is revived, it's **received with great joy expressed in song. (for ages!)**
- **Pay attention to what you're singing.** Don't just focus on the musicians or instruments.
- There's **a noticeable relationship** between our dwelling upon the Bible and our expression of worship. **The word shapes our worship, and worship reinforces the word....**
 - Sadly, many “Christian songs” today are written by people with little knowledge of God's Word, and focus on feeling/sensation. It's dangerous to separate praise from the Word.
- **It is cyclical - like the book of Judges** - And I am seeing people being called back to the **real Word & real worship**. No more superficiality, seeker friendly, fake niceties, or soft self-focused worship...

V. 16 - Singing with **grace (thankfulness) in your hearts to the Lord.**

- It takes **grace (charis)** to sing when the above list of goes awry (**Acts 16**)
- It's not singing of fleshy performance; it's a **demonstration of the grace of God** in our **hearts**
- **To the Lord** - our worship is **mainly meant to be a prayer/praise** directed **to God**.
- As you grow in the grace of the Word, you will grow in understanding/expression of praise

Before we leave this section, **notice the parallel with Ephesians 5:18.**

- Ephesians 5:15-21, CSB - “Pay careful attention, then, to how you walk—not as unwise people but as wise— making the most of the time, because the days are evil. So don't be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. And don't get drunk with wine, which leads to reckless living, but be filled by the Spirit: speaking to one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs,

singing and making music with your heart to the Lord, giving thanks always for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another in the fear of Christ."

- In Ephesians, Paul emphasized being filled with the Spirit
- In Colossians, being filled with the Word.
- The **evidence is the same!** (joyful / thankful) (deeply connected - can't forsake one/other)

His Name (verse 17)

V. 17 - And whatever you do in word or deed, do all...

- **Whatever you do** = "Make no exceptions" to this general principle
- The Greek word pas (all) is **fronted for emphasis**
- In word or deed - In "lip or life" = all encompassing: Working, parenting, spending money, studying for school, driving through traffic, posting online.
- **There's no sacred/secular divide.** All of life is spiritual when you're clothed in Christ.

V. 17 - In the name of the Lord Jesus

- **This is a big deal.** It's about honor and representation.
- If you wear a brand/uniform, how you act reflects on the company (or should, hopefully (police, doctor, etc)) - **Church sticker on car! Yikes!**
- In today's society, we pay little attention to names. But ancient cultures **held a man's name to be of utmost importance.** It meant/represented something... (Bible: name changes)
- Name (Onoma) = "used for everything the name covers: remembering, authority, excellencies, interests, reputation, character, etc"
- The "Name" of Jesus is not just a name, but **His Name is an expression of the sum total of His Being/Character/Authority/Status** "The Lords is salvation"
 - 1 Kings 8:29 - God's Name dwelt in the temple
 - Proverbs 18:10 - "The name of the LORD is a strong tower"
 - Numbers 6:27 - "So shall they put my name upon the people of Israel"
 - Exodus 20:7 - "You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain"
- Micah 4:5, NIV - "All the nations may walk in the name of their gods, [but] **we will walk in the name of the LORD our God for ever and ever.**"
- Johann Sebastian Bach would write at the bottom of his manuscripts: "In Nomine Domini Nostri Jesu Christi (INDNJC) = In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Johann Sebastian Bach)
- Taking the word **"in" (en)** as a reference to "in the sphere of," - this is who we are and what we care about now. (or should be, as **His ambassadors**) - **to Bring glory to Jesus!**

So, **before making a decision**, ask: **"Can I honestly do this, say this, post this in the name of the Lord Jesus and give thanks while I do it?"**

V. 17 - Giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

- Paul ends with **gratitude for the third time**
- Giving Thanks (eucharistos) = "to be grateful or feel thankful; the act of giving thanks"
- Eucharisteeo at its very core (eu = good + charis = grace)- **acknowledge how good grace is!**
- **Present tense** = giving thanks is to be our lifestyle, our response to all people/circumstances

- The **only way to accomplish this is by reliance on the filling (control) of the Spirit**, not by natural means! **Abiding in Christ!**

Even mundane tasks become **acts of worship** when done:

- **In Jesus' name**
- **With gratitude to the Father**
- **Practical Examples:**
 - *Changing diapers in Jesus' name, with thanksgiving*
 - *Filing taxes in Jesus' name, with thanksgiving*
 - *Working your job in Jesus' name, with thanksgiving*
 - *Playing sports in Jesus' name, with thanksgiving*

Closing

Clothed in Christ: His Character; His Peace; His Word; His Name!

- **His Character** – *compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, forgiveness, and love.*
- **His Peace** – Let **Christ's peace be the umpire** in our hearts and in the church.
- **His Word** – Let the **word of Christ dwell richly**, shaping our teaching, correction, and worship.
- **His Name** – We live all of life **under and for the name of Jesus**.

Here's the beautiful truth: you're not earning these clothes. **God has already clothed you in Christ's righteousness.** Now **you're simply living out** what's already true about you. **Chosen. Holy, Beloved...**

PRAY