

You guys are going to stay with us today, the middle school and junior hires. And with that in mind, let's turn our attention to the Word of God. Open your Bibles to the Book of [Colossians](#). The third chapter, and this is just a portion of God's Word that is so absolutely important, that is so life-changing, I believe, that if we'll listen to the Holy Spirit, if we will be open to the Holy Spirit teaching us and driving these truths home, and allowing the Holy Spirit to have His winter lives, this will be the reality that God wants us to experience.

Our focus today will be on verses 11, you verse 15. But before we jump into this really quickly, I want to remind everybody of where we've come from. At the beginning of this chapter, of course Paul was talking about fixing our eyes on things above, focusing on Jesus and the things of heaven, not the things of the earth. And he tells us that our real life is the life that we have in Jesus.

That's our real life when you're a Christian. So put off the old life. And when he says to put off the old life, he begins in verse 5, defining what kind of behavior we have in our old sin nature. And there's a whole rundown of that.

And I'm not going to go through that again, but you can read that beginning in verses 5 through 9. Things that are part of our flesh and the sinful things that we do, and the things that we say that are part of our conduct outside of knowing Jesus Christ. And Paul tells us that we need to take that stuff off. Take it off like an old jacket, an old piece of clothing that you've worn, that has grown old, that's tattered, it's useless, get rid of it, take it off, discard it.

And that's the language we see there. So he says, as you take off all of this stuff, verse 10 tells us then, put on your new nature. And he uses again kind of that metaphor, put it on like you put on clothes, put on your new nature and be renewed as you learn to know your creator and become like him. To know our Lord, our God, our Savior, our King, Jesus Christ in such a powerful way that we're growing in a relationship with Him, our knowledge of Him, our spirit and our spirit and our spirit.

So we're becoming like Him through the word of God. And remember back in chapter 1 for those who were part of that initial study, we saw that Jesus is the creator, that He created everything that exists. And so that reiterates that reality to become like Him. So having said the things that you're supposed to put off, now today we're going to see the things that God wants like putting on clothes, put these things on.

We begin in verse 11 and this transitions into that. Verse 11 says, in this new life, it doesn't matter if you are a Jew or a Gentile, circumcise or uncircumcise, barbaric, uncivilized, slavery-free. Christ is all that matters and He lives in all of us. Christ is in all and He is all.

What is the importance of this? So in the audience of Jesus was speaking to culturally, almost 2000 years ago, we know that in those cultures that, and sometimes even today, that depending on what part of society you belong to, that people look down on others right, well you're not part of this group or you're not part of this group and so you're not up here with us. That existed back then and there was the reality of course of slaves and people who had slaves that were free, or whether you were just free and weren't part of that. And so let me break down a few of these things.

Let's define the context here. And He says in verse 11, in this new life, it doesn't matter if you're a Jew or a Gentile, he's speaking about, it doesn't matter what your

cultural heritage is. It doesn't matter where you come from. It doesn't matter your ethnicity.

That has no relevance in the kingdom of God. It covers all of humanity. He also says, circumcise or uncircumcise. Well we know according to the religious traditions that even what Paul was refuting back in chapter 2 was the legalistic teaching that it was Jesus plus doing all this legalistic mumble jumbo.

And part of that was saying, hey, the men, you've got to be circumcised if you want because you're not going to please God unless you do this ritualistic thing. And Paul refuted that. So we're saying, look, none of that matters. This exterior stuff that we do that tries to communicate to people that we're holy and that we're godly people.

He says that doesn't matter because that's an issue of the flesh. He goes on to say barbaric or uncivilized. Some of your translations will say, sithian. Has anybody ever heard that name before that word, sithian or sithian?

Well let me define this for you. Barbaric, when you think of a barbarian now, do you think of somebody that's pretty unruly? Right? He got the barbarian.

I think of Thurston Howell the Thurb on Gilligan's Island, sorry. For those of you who are old enough to remember that, he got lovey. Somebody in that culture back then was somebody that wasn't civilized. You know, and the Greeks and some of the people that culture, they kind of thought of themselves as kind of hoydie toty.

We're above everybody else. And there are still people today that kind of look down on others, right? We're of a certain class and you don't measure up. And he says no, it doesn't matter because those people that are considered barbaric or perhaps not quite as culture, it doesn't matter.

And when he says uncivilized or sithians, wow, these are guys that are not only barbarians, these are guys to the next level like a till of the hun kind of barbarian. These are bad guys. He says so even in the kingdom of God that those who come to faith in Jesus Christ, it doesn't matter what your background is. What you've done, where you've been, whether you were barbarian or even a schithian.

That in Christ, it doesn't matter. And by the way, something to note, prophetically, that's relevant, that we know historically we can trace back the schithians. And we know that the schithians are the ancestors of the Russian people. Okay, and that's not an indictment against the Russian people today.

But prophetically we know the Russia plays a key role in coming against Israel in the last days. And again, when we've done prophetic updates, don't probably do it in the not-judicent future because there are so many developments on the world stage. We haven't touched on that for a while. We know that there are those nations that the Bible talks about that are involved in a grouping of nations that will come against Israel and Russia is the key.

And one of the main leaders, when we see Iran, which is ancient Persia, and all those nations working together now, and you see the tightening of the news around the Jewish people and the nation of Israel, even now. And it's an amazing thing that we have going on. So I thought it was just kind of interesting to point out to you that the schithians, those barbarians of old, are the Russians of today. That's interesting.

He goes on to say this, and her slave of free. Again, back then, because in that society, there were some who were slaves. And there were some who lived freely. Again, in God's kingdom, it doesn't matter.

Your value and your worth has nothing to do in your position. In a way, shape or matter. And he concludes that verse saying this, and he sums it up, because Christ is all that matters. And he lives in all of us as believers.

It's all about Jesus. That's exactly what he's saying. Jesus, Messiah, Messiah, Messiah, Christ is all that matters. Isn't that nice to know?

We know that even today in some of the religious systems around the world, there's still a lot about class. And where you're at, in India, so many people who are part of the Hindu religion, the part of the class is called the caste system. Those poor people that are the outcasts, that every, and I'm forgetting the name, I had it, and it just left me. But there are part of that system that they are downtrodd, they're looked up on in a lowly way.

And they're just, they're the huge majority of the people in India. But it's part of that religious system too, that they're looked down on. And God is telling us, hey, when you come into a relationship with Jesus, praise the Lord because none of that matters. Jesus is all that matters.

So moving on then, that transitions us into verse 12. And before we really jump into that, I want to throw this out to kind of stir our thinking this morning, about identifying, because when Paul is teaching verse 11, when he throws out verse 11 to us, of course those people that he would have been addressing initially would have totally related to all of that. And they would have, they would have realized the connection in society and, and the place that those people belonged. Now we can kind of do that today again.

And there are even certain things that identify, or we can identify with, and it doesn't even have to be things with society. There are things that we see, and we automatically identify it with something, even symbology. Now for those of you who are part of Calvary Chapel, or familiar with Calvary Chapel for any length of time, the Calvary Chapel, you see it over there on the wall, you see it on our bulletins. It's synonymous with Calvary Chapel.

The symbolism that you have over here, that's something that comes from the word for the day ministry, which is Calvary Chapel as well. If some of you root for a specific team, whether it's a professional football team or a basketball team, and you see that logo in Cygnia, you automatically identify that, right, with that particular thing. A company, I mean you can go down the list, right? Well what about Christians?

How would people identify us, okay? Would it be because they see our cars and we got a big Jesus fish on there, and we got a big cross, and we got a bumper sticker, and certainly there's nothing wrong with that, so get me wrong. But is that what identifies as Christians? I've said this to my wife kind of half-heartedly, just kind of kidding.

Look at that, there's a Christian vehicle, I sure hope they'll understand. Because the vehicle's sporting that, but obviously the people who are in there have put that on there. I remember having a vehicle a long time ago that, of course they had the Icklesson there, I had the Jesus fish, sold the vehicle, and a couple years later I saw the vehicle again, they still had the Jesus fish on it, but I had some interaction with

the people who were driving that, I'm not trying to be critical or judgmental, but I know there weren't Christians. So people were to assume because they saw that Jesus fish on the car that the people had it then, where Christians they would have been wrong.

But what does God intend as the world looks at us? What would identify us as Christians? How should people know that we are followers of Jesus? And what we're going to see here in the next verses is this reality lived out, and is personified specifically by one word, and it's called love, agape.

Jesus himself said, the evening before he would be crucified as he was celebrating the Passover meal, with the disciples, he said, look, the world is going to know that you are my disciples because you got it together, you know, because you're real good buddies, and you're very well organized and you've been faithful to me. He didn't say that. He said, the world will know that you are truly my disciples, my followers, my students, because of your love for each other, how you love each other. And see, that's what Paul is going to talk about here now in verse 12.

And this is so important, folks. Please get the heart of what's being said here, because even within the body of Christ, within family relationships, even with engaging with people, aren't believers, sometimes it's not easy to love each other and to care for each other. Sometimes we rub each other wrong, we have unique personalities, and sometimes that gets in a way. And God wants to address how we're able to overcome all of those things.

And the Lord just impressed something, I mean, I want to share this. It was years ago, there was some people who were attending our fellowship. They're no longer with us. You know, I mean, one of the things about living in Vernal, we have kind of a transient population.

What do I mean by that? Because the oil field people come and go. We've had, in 11 years, we've had well over 100 different people who were actively involved here that they just had to relocate because of what they did for a living. And there were members of a family that were coming here.

And there were actually two different groups of the same family. I'm not, I'm not going to get into that anymore than that, but they were, they weren't getting along. And it was becoming an issue. For one of the, one members, one side of the family wasn't a big deal.

For the other side of the family, it was a big deal. And they didn't know how to work this out. And they were really troubled by it. And they were thinking that it was even going to affect church life.

And they didn't want to see that happen. So they came to me and poured out their heart to me and their concerns. And they began to pray for them. And it was about midweek.

And then we were doing a study in a specific book in the Bible. I can't remember what it was back then. But I know the Lord impressed on me. Let's take a little detour this week.

And he took me right to [Colossians](#) chapter three to these verses that we're looking at right here. And what I call the message was, is how is your love life? We've heard that before, right? But that applies to so many parts of our life.

And the reality is that even looking at the Greek language, that word love has several different definitions. There's a familial love that's called Storgate. That's the love we have as family members, the way we interact and how we love each other, as parents and children. And vice versa, you understand that.

There's phallél love in the Greek. And that's a friendship love, a camaraderie. You really connect with somebody. And you're really good buddies.

And you're there to encourage each other. And that's a unique kind of a love, phallél love. But the highest form of love is a love that we call, anybody know? A gapi.

And the reality is that word didn't even come into existence until the New Testament. It was because of what Jesus did on the cross that that word came into existence. And that is the highest form of love. And the pure definition of a gapi is selfless, sacrificial love.

It thinks of others ahead of ourselves. And Jesus personified that. And that's the kind of love that is being spoken of here. And the Lord on that Sunday, when I taught from this, it was awesome because over the next few weeks, not only did that family come back to me and say, that the Lord spoke to their hearts, and they were able to connect and reconcile their differences.

And it was because of God's words speaking to their hearts. But there are a lot of other people that came up and said, wow, that really spoke to my heart. Because folks, what we're seeing here is something that affects all of us. So let's see what God's word has to say about, how we're to truly walk in the love of Jesus Christ.

And the reality that we should be identified as people who walk in this kind of love. Verse 12, Paul says, since God chose you to be the holy people he loves. So when he said he chose us, that he set us apart. He sanctified us to be what his people.

And that's what holy means. Holy isn't this that I walk around looking at me. I'm so holy. I'm holier than now.

That's not what it means. You know, when it's sad when people do that, because that's what the Pharisees did. They went around with all the religious makeup on, and they played this role of being religious. And Jesus said, you're dead inside.

You hypocrites. You don't know God. And he's saying, look, it's about being set apart because of what Jesus did through his sacrifice. That's how we become holy through the blood of Jesus.

Because we're sanctified and set apart because of his sacrifice. So as says God chose you to be his holy people, that he what he loves. And folks, he loves us more than we could ever comprehend. And that love does not change.

That love does not waver. He cannot love you anymore or less than he does right now. And that will never change. I don't know about you, but I find great security in that reality that his love for me will never change.

But look what he says then. You must clothe. Here's that metaphor again, right? He always ready said, take off stuff.

Now he's saying, put this on. After he said about putting on your new nature in verse 10, he says here, you must clothe yourselves with the first thing he says, tender-

hearted mercy. Tender-hearted mercy. Are you merciful to other people when they offend or hurt you?

When they say things that cut you to the quick? What is our response when somebody hurts us? Is there something that somebody has done to us in the past that we can't quite let go? And we're carrying that burden of unforgiveness.

If we do that, folks, or the ones who are the hurting ones, because it's like a cancer that will eat you up inside. And it serves no good in your relationship of God and relationship with anybody else. And I firmly believe that's one of the Satan's greatest tools in the lives of even believers is when we hold something against somebody. He's saying here, to clothe yourself with tender-hearted mercy.

Think about that word mercy, by the way. We know that grace means receiving a gift, an unmerited gift. There's nothing we can do to earn it like our salvation. You and I cannot earn salvation.

We're saved by grace to faith. God gives us a gift. Mercy is the opposite of that. Mercy is God withholding something we deserve.

And that's judgment. So when God says, clothe yourself with tender-hearted mercy, that is God saying, look, somebody may have done something to you. And maybe from a practical sense, it seems like you have the right to inflict something on them because of what they've done for you, but he's saying don't. Withhold that from them and be compassionate to them.

That's very important. Clothe yourself with tender-hearted mercy. What's the next thing? Kindness.

Not only how we interact in the body of Christ because that's what Paul is talking about here in its context, but certainly doesn't this apply to our relationships and our family life with the people that we love and we care for? And the people sometimes we butt heads with the most because we're sharing life under the same roof. That's when sometimes it's the most difficult, right? That's sometimes as we're the biggest issues lie.

But even in our work, lies. We have people sometimes who can rub us the wrong way or hurt us. Jesus says, look, we should practice what is, formerly call us a golden rule, do one others. What, as you would have them to do unto you?

Jesus said that, it doesn't matter what they've done. They're accountable to God for what they've done. You and I are only accountable for what we do or don't do. What our actions are, our reactions.

So he says, again, clothe yourself, put on, tender-hearted mercy, kindness, kindness, humility, more reacting and interacting with people, being humble. You know what, all of this didn't sound enough, a lot like a portrait of Jesus. Absolutely. It is not what Paul said in verse 11 again.

I mean, verse 10, put on your new nature and be renewed as you learn to know your creator and to become like him. You will know that you're becoming more and more like Jesus when it's easier and easier to apply what he says here in the Word and your relationships. And you and I can't do that in ourselves. It's a work of the Holy Spirit as we surrender our lives to him continually.

He goes on to say, after humility, he says gentleness to be gentle with each other and also patient or long suffering. It doesn't seem like you suffer long sometimes, right? In those situations, they're with people who rub you the wrong way or they've done stuff to offend or to hurt you. Sometimes it's hard to apply these elements in your relationship to them.

But it's so important and it's interesting and I'm not gonna go there today but in [Galatians](#), chapter five, there are some things that Paul teaches here that so parallel this too, it's called the fruit of the spirit. And before he gets to the fruit of the spirit, he talks about our old sin nature and the things that show the old sin nature that he transitions into those things or the work of the spirit. And it's the things only the Holy Spirit can produce in us. And the first one is guess what is called, starts with an L or an A in Greek love, that highest form of love, agape.

And then he's got this wonderful list again of things that are adjectives that actually describe the love and is very similar to this. And that's how you know you're walking in the spirit. So I encourage you to look at that and follow up on that. And that's what he says in verse 13, and after giving that list of things that we should be applying practically in our relationships, verse 13 says make allowance for each other's faults.

Let's focus on that for a second. Again, that's kind of talking about the uniqueness of who you are and I are. Our little idiosyncrasies, if you will, the uniqueness of personality. Have you ever met somebody that just rubbed you wrong?

Because there were just something about them, their behavior, the way they acted, the way they came across, that it was really tough to be around them. You really didn't even want to be around them. Sometimes in the body of Christ, can that happen? Sure there can be.

There's somebody within the fellowship you attend that just for whatever reason. Oh boy, I just soon not be around them. The reality as God says that we should make allowance for the uniqueness of who they are. But let me share with you the balance here, because what sometimes happens within the body of Christ is that they can take part of a verse like this and say, look, you have to accept me the way that I am.

God says so. Yes, of course, because they are unique. But the uniqueness of who we are is not a license to say, well, that's just the way I am and you have to put up with it. That's not what God says.

We know that God's design and desire back in verse 10 again is for us to become more like Jesus. God doesn't tell us in the word that we have a past because we have a unique personality. He doesn't say, he doesn't say, well, this applies all of you, but hey, you have a unique temperament or personality in a unique way of doing things. So, you know, you get a pass on this.

That's not the case. Because it's the power of the Holy Spirit in all of us that works through our uniqueness so that we can become more like Jesus Christ. And so here's the reality. If there are people who have a tendency, and let me give you an example, there are some people that have dynamic personalities that are very vibrant and very in your face kind of personalities.

And sometimes those people don't come off as being kind and humble and merciful and gentle and patient. In fact, they come off being just the opposite and they step on your toes and your walls go up and you go, I don't like that person very much. They

just hurt my feelings. We both had to be careful because even if they do that, God says we're what?

Forgive them. But on the other hand, that person isn't free to do that just because that's their personality or the way they're used to living. No. In fact, if they have that kind of personality for them, they can be more of a struggle.

But they have to come to a place where they even surrender more and say, Lord, this is hard for me. And most of the time that people with that kind of personality are actually kind of blind to the fact that this is an issue in their life. They don't realize that they hurt people, that they step on people's toes. They're just being them.

But we're supposed to make allowance and they're supposed to make allowance for each other's faults and uniquenesses. And when they do transgress, we're supposed to look at the second part of this verse. After a Paul says, make allowance for each other's faults and forgive anyone who offends you. Is God covered the basis?

He says, forgive this group or this person, but you can hold it over that person's head. It's not what he said. And forgive anyone who offends you. And I love this.

Remember the Lord forgave you. So you must forgive others. That's a mandate from God's word. I know some of you folks have been deeply injured by people in the past, things that people have done and said that have left you scarred and hurting.

Reluctant to trust people in relationships or to open up your heart to people, but God can heal that. The reality is, is he wants us to remember that he stepped out of eternity into time and gave his life so that we could experience a forgiveness beyond anything we could comprehend. And because he forgave us of all of our sins and transgressions, who are we to not apply the same level of forgiveness to others who offend and to hurt us? And if you are struggling in an area, if you've had that happened to you, call upon the Lord of Yahweh, Rafa.

That means the Lord who is our physician. He's a great physician. God can heal physically. We've seen him.

Touch people's lies. We know there are three people in our church that the doctors have said should be dead. They say that they're walking miracles because by medical standards, they should have died. One of them plays bass almost every Sunday here, Julie Jensen.

Most of you who are aware of know her, she's one of 100 people in the world who suffers from a rare blood disorder. The doctor said that up to 17 years ago, she should have been dead. She's a walking miracle. It's the grace and the power of God that stains her and the doctor still don't understand why she's alive.

I can tell you why, because of God Almighty. He's a stains her. There's a little wonderful lady that's sitting over there in the corner. Same thing.

Mosel's hiding. Mosel was literally on her deathbed when she cried out to the Lord Jesus Christ. Doctors were convinced she was on her way out. There's even been a television program that featured her story.

And God intervened, gave her eternal life, more than anything, most important thing, huh? But he preserved her life physically and she's here today because of what

Jesus did. There's another person she's not here today, but God can heal a person physically, but guess what? God is also the healer of a broken heart.

He gives you spiritual healing. The ultimate healing is when you're born again by the spirit living God. That's the ultimate healing that you receive because you get new wife. But God can heal your broken heart.

If you're carrying unforgiveness and a grudge and unforgiveness and all that stuff that consumes you, cry out the God to help you to forgive and to let go because there's a cancer inside you that will eat you up and it's no good for you. It doesn't do you any good because that's not the love of God either. Remember the Lord forgave you so you must forgive others. Verse 14, he says this, above all, clothe yourselves with what's the word?

Love, clothe yourself, apply, put on a gope. If you look up that word in the Greek language, you're not gonna find arrows, you're not gonna find phalsetto, you're not gonna find store gay, you're gonna find agape. The highest form of love, above all, put on, clothe yourself, personalize that folks, clothe yourself with agape. Look what it says then, which binds us all together.

It's the love of Jesus that binds us all together and it's the blood of Jesus Christ, the washed away our sins, that binds us together. Above all, clothe yourselves with love which binds us all together in perfect harmony. That's speaking of the reality that you and I are part of the body of Christ and we're part of this unique entity that from the Father's perspective is pure and holy because of Jesus's finished work. Now are you and I are working progress practically in this world?

Yes, we are. But that's what that's speaking about. And the reality is if we want to live in harmony within the body of Christ, whether it's in the fellowship of Ashley Valley Calvary Chapel, our interactions with brothers and sisters at World Vision Assembly, our first Baptist church or a verbal Christian church, wherever you'll meet believers, we need to clothe ourselves with agape, with the love of God. And then not only in our relationships with each other, but extend that love to the world.

Because they're going to see that you're able to love in a way the world possibly can't love, right? The world can't apply this, what happens when you're walking in your old sin nature or you don't know Jesus at all. You don't express tender hearted mercy. You don't give kindness and humility and gentleness and patience.

More than anything else, most people are highly offended. And it gets in their car or they got a bur under their saddle. That's for you, Jack. They've a bur under their saddle and they're not going to let it go.

Why that's so and so? Oh, every time they see that person, it wells up within them and that immediate hatred comes to their hearts, that emotion is stirred. We don't know what that's like. We've all been offended and hurt.

You know what it's like to have been hurt by somebody and all you got to do is see them or hear their name and that emotion is there just like that. And you're like, ooh, that protective wall goes up, everything. Jesus says, give it to me. Help us to walk, Lord, in perfect harmony.

And it's only his love that will allow that to happen. First, 15 then says this. And let the peace, because if we're operating in this kind of love, then it's the peace that comes from Christ that we're ruling our heart. That's what he says.

And let the peace, that would be the Greek equivalent of the Hebrew Shalom, which means let it be well with you. That's what he's saying here. Let you find a place of stability and peace and a well-being that is supernatural really, because it's a peace that comes from God. And you know what, one of his covenant names in the Hebrew is Yahweh Shalom, the Lord is our peace.

Is Jesus your peace? Are you resting in his peace? Boy, he wants you to rest in his peace. And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts.

Let it rule in your hearts. You know what, it's so awesome to walk in that peace. No matter what's going on in your world, no matter what the challenges are, whether it's an issue of a relationship or somebody's hurt you and you've taken offense, and now you're guarded, that can eat you up. Walk in peace.

Don't let that get the best of you. Whether it's a situation in your life, with your [Job](#), your finances, health, whatever your circumstance is, trust Jesus to give you peace in the midst of that situation, because he can carry you through that. One of his titles, we know in [Isaiah](#) chapter 9, verse 6, which is very prominent during Christmas season, we're transitioning into, as the one that says, for under a sun, is given, a child is born, and his name shall be called, Wonderful Counselor, Prince of Peace. He is the Prince of Peace.

They give you a peace of passage of understanding. I don't know about you, but I want to live this out. I want to live in an environment where I've got harmony with my brothers and sisters in the Lord. We're walking in the spirit, that's a reality.

I want to live in an environment that's real, that the peace of Jesus will rule in my heart and rule in your heart, and we can interact, and let that peace be something that is just an amazing part of our relationships. And look what it says, a latter part of this verse says, for as members of one body, you were called to live in peace. See, God has called us to live in that peace, that's your loam. That's his intent, and to always be thankful.

Gee, really, what, a couple weeks out from Thanksgiving? Pretty convenient. We should be thankful at all times, not just this time of the year. It should be something that's just done our hearts this time of the year, but God has called us to live in the peace, and to be thankful, as we conclude our study today, I want you to go with me to [Romans](#) 12.

I want to read some verses from the Church of the Letter Rome that is obviously so applicable to us today. You know, the book of [Romans](#) is called the Christian Constitution, because it covers all the most critical elements of our Christian life. So it's called the Christian Constitution. And in chapters 12 through 16, it's about relationship.

How we're to relate to each other? As Christians, how we share this life. So I would encourage you to take some time this week and light up what we study here, read these chapters. It wouldn't take you that long, and it will be of great benefit to you.

And I know ladies, you guys are in, the one that's who are doing the Monday Night Study, your in [Romans](#) right now, and eventually, you'll get to this point. But I want to start right in verse 1, because for you and I to live out what God attends us to do, and what we're seeing back in [Colossians](#), it's going to take what we see here in verse 1. And so dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God

because of all that he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice, the kind that he will find acceptable, and look at this element.

This is truly the way to worship him. Isn't that powerful? That study guy that we've handed out for the devotional study, the Bob Koi wrote about worship. Study that out, you're going to see most of this.

Worship is so much more than just seeing [Psalms](#) to Jesus. Surrendering our lives all we are back to Jesus is an act of worship that when we do it with our hearts, that God finds completely acceptable and pleasing. Look what it says in verse 2 then, don't copy the behavior and customs of this world. What we've read in [Colossians](#) 3 about clothing ourselves with tender hearted mercy and humility and kindness, all those things, that's not what the world does, does it?

That's not what we do in our old sin nature. It's only when we're walking in the spirit that we can put those things on. So when he says, don't copy the same behavior and customs of this world. But let God transform you into a new person by changing the way that you think.

Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect. You wanna know God's will for you, submit your life to him and he will teach you. And when he says here, let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. You know what happens when we're sending God's word like we're doing this morning.

And when you read God's word every day and you pray, God is transforming your mind through the washing of the water according to [Ephesians](#) chapter five. It has the ability to wash out all the gunk and the garbage you take into your senses, that you're hearing and through your eyes, that affect your mind, that are garbage. And God helps you to think the way he wants it to and he changes your mind so that you're thinking from a biblical and a Christian worldview. You're thinking the way God wants you to think.

Now look what he says after that. Because of the privilege and authority God has given me, I give each of you this warning. Think about what we've read in [Colossians](#), about relationship and walking in peace and love and the harmony that there's there. He says, I give each of you this warning.

Don't think you are better than you really are. That's good. Sometimes we have a tendency to kind of proper ourselves up a little more than we should. Think a little too highly of ourselves.

Boy, well I got it going on. Right? He says basically we should take a fair evaluation of who we really are. Look at he says that for that.

Do not think you are better than you really are. Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves, measuring ourselves by the faith that God has given us, a biblical standard. Remember what we read over in [Colossians](#) where it said that you were part of one body, right? Many, many, we see that in [1 Corinthians](#) 12.

Many body parts one body, Paul talks about it again here. Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body and we all belong to each other. Verse 6, in his grace, God has given us each different gifts for doing certain things well.

Each one of you has been given a gift from God. If you are a Christian, it's important for us to understand. So if God has given you a ability to prophesy, speak out as much faith God has given you. If your gift is serving others, serve them well.

If you are a teacher, teach well. If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously.

And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly. Look what it says now in verse 9. Don't just pretend to love others. God sees our heart, says me.

He knows when it's a game on the exterior and we're acting like we care or like we love. Don't just pretend to love others. Guess what that word agape would be right there for love. It would be agape, right?

Don't just pretend to agape others. Really agape them, love them. Hate what is wrong and hold tightly to what is good. Love each other with genuine affection and take delight in honoring each other.

Never be lazy but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically. Rejoice in our confident hope and that by way would be assurance as well. Be patient and trouble and keep on praying. And when God's people are need, be ready to help them.

Always be eager to practice hospitality. Of these next few verses are important and will conclude with these next few verses. Bless those who persecute you. What did Paul say in [Colossians](#) 3 to clothe yourself with all of those things, right?

Tender hearted mercy. Forgive other persons false when they have wronged you. Forgive them. Sometimes it feels like you're being persecuted.

Kind of the same thing. Bless those who persecute you. Don't curse them. Pray that God will bless them.

Well, that's powerful. Be happy with those who are happy. I mean share life with each other. Rejoice with others when they're rejoicing.

And weep with those who weep. When somebody's broken hearted. When they're going through a difficult time, come alongside them. Put your arm around them and genuinely love them and weep with them.

Share life's trials and burdens with them. Like a verse 16. Live in harmony with each other. Isn't that what we saw Paul saying in [Colossians](#) 3?

Live in harmony with each other. Do not be too proud to enjoy the company of ordinary people. For those again in a body who think, well, you know, I'm a little farther up the social ladder than they are. Won't see me hanging out with them.

You've got to be kidding me. You walk through the door of a church. Are you see somebody downtown if they're a Christian? It doesn't matter where they're at in society's eyes.

What [Job](#) they have, what their income is, what they look like, what they dress like. It's irrelevant. Because Christ is all it matters. Don't be too proud to enjoy the company of ordinary people.

And don't think you know it all. I like that too. Isn't that great? Humility is the opposite of that.

Don't think you know it all. For 17, never pay back evil with more evil. And do things in such a way that everyone can see you are honorable. If you're doing things in this way, if you're living out where we see in [Colossians 3](#) and power by the Holy Spirit to do that, people will see that you are honorable.

Yes, what they're going to know. There's something unique about you. And it's something only God can produce in you by His grace and by His Spirit. And finally, look at this verse.

Verse 18. Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone. Some of the older translations say, say it this way kind of, that as much as it is possible for you, live in peace for those around you, is there basically what God is saying? Look, you're responsible for your part of the relationship.

So as much as you can, meaning you take responsibility, you live at peace with other people, because you can't dictate how they're going to live, but you can live at peace with other people. You can be in a place where you're not provoking, where you're not hurting, but you're exercising these things that we've read about today. The tender heart of mercies, and the humility and the kindness, expressing all that. So as much as it is possible, do all that you can to live in peace with everyone.

And when the Prince of Peace is on the throne of our hearts, that's when we can do that, because I guarantee you I can't, and not one of you can live these things out that God has asked us to do in our own strength. You know, there are some people that aren't even Christians that some of the nicest people, they're just really nice, and they really care about people, but that only goes so far. The kind of love, the kind of expression that God is telling us about here, is something that is deeper and transcends that, that is a fruit and a work of the Spirit of God that only He can really produce in us. And so God wants us to go to that place.

And we're going to transition into a time of worship. So I would ask that you close your eyes, Bob, will you get that light? And it's a time for ministry, and Bob and Jake, by the way, are going to make themselves available out in the foyer. During our worship time, if you need prayer, if you need something specifically that you need prayed for, please go back and let these guys pray for you.

They'd be more than happy to minister to you. Otherwise, you can pray here where you're seated. Ask the Lord to search your heart. Whatever God is putting on your heart, is letting them have your way.

For this is the time to allow what we've read today, that we study, to penetrate our hearts, to ask God to make this real in my life. I don't want to walk out of here today, just having heard these verses, and my life be the same, or just to be like water off the ducts back, just being something that is irrelevant to me. God doesn't want that. We can't want that.

Lord Jesus, make this real in our lives. This morning, as we continue to seek You, Lord, as we worship You, Holy Spirit, meet each person, continue to meet each person right where they're at. Continue to drive home the truth of Your Word, and help us to continually surrender, or knowing that all that we need comes from You. For You are Yahweh, You are our provider.

The Lord is our provider. Provide all that we need to be the people You've called us to be. So again, as we worship, as we pray, Holy Spirit continue to search Your hearts, and again, give us the grace and strength, all that we need to be the people You've called us to be. Just pray out Your Spirit, Father, and His time of ministry.

Have Your way, Holy Spirit.