



Colossians: Jesus Over Everything

October 1 – Colossians 3:12-17

Section 1: Introduction

In the heart of the letter to the Colossians, the apostle Paul paints a profound portrait of Christian living that beckons believers to a higher calling. In the verses preceding Colossians 3:12-17, Paul encourages us to have the supremacy of Jesus always in view, to recognize Christ's work on our behalf, to not be captive by deceitful ideologies, to "put on the new self." It's within this context that we encounter today's passage, Colossians 3:12-17, where Paul unveils a tapestry of virtues and attitudes that should enshroud the lives of God's people.

With an invitation to clothe ourselves in compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, Paul calls us to mirror Christ in all we do, bound together in love and gratitude.

Read Colossians 3:12-17.

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as

you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Section 2: Walk slowly through your passage

Read Colossians 3:12-14

- What virtues does Paul instruct the Colossians to “put on?”
- What else does Paul instruct the Colossians to do?

Read Colossians 3:15

- Write down what Paul encourages us to “rule” in our hearts.
- What reason does he give for this?

Read Colossians 3:16-17

- What does Paul want to “dwell richly” in the lives of the believing community in Colossae? How does he envision them bringing this about?
- Whose name are we to do everything in?

To wrap up, take a few minutes to paraphrase Colossians 3:12-17 in your own words in the space below.

Section 3: Reflection questions

- In Colossians 3:12-17, Paul is challenging the believers in Colossae to “put on” certain virtues and to live a certain way. What do you do whenever the virtues you are putting on feel a little too “tight” (difficult or constraining)?
- How have you grown in these virtues over the last year? In what ways are you still needing to grow? How can a deeper understanding of the gospel of Jesus help you grow in those?
- In this season, what would it look like for you to allow the “peace of Christ” to rule in you? To allow the “message of Christ” to dwell among you? To do “all” in the name of the Lord Jesus?

Section 4: Pray the Scriptures

Using Colossians 3:12-17, write out a prayer in response to what you’ve read OR use the prayer already constructed below to pray this passage.

Sample Prayer:

Heavenly Father, thank You for Colossians 3:12-17. Help me to clothe myself with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, to be able to bear with my life group, my family, my friends, and my co-workers in love. Lord, I need your peace. Allow it to rule in my heart. Lord I need your Word. Allow it to dwell in me richly. Holy Spirit, help me to do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to the Father. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Section 5: Memorize Scripture

Throughout this series, we want to be memorizing Scripture. Use the prompts below to help you get Colossians 3:12-17 into your heart and mind.

1. Write out the passage: Write down Colossians 3:12-17 in your journal or on a notecard.
2. **Memorize Colossians 3:12-14.** Use various techniques to memorize the passage such as repeating it out loud, creating visual associations, or setting it to a melody or rhythm, take time to commit these verses to memory.
3. Review and practice: Regularly review the passage throughout the week. Recite it from memory and reflect on its meaning and significance.