

Colossians

Lesson 6 - Colossians 3:12-16

So far in Chapter 3 we have looked at the things we are to *put off*, since we have died with Christ to the sinful flesh. The section we will study this week focusses now on those things we are to *put on*, as the new man. As we consider each of these, we will see the example of Jesus over and over. Look to see not only what we are to *put on*, but the motive behind it, “the why”.

Begin your study with prayer, thanking the Lord for His Word and asking for understanding of it and wisdom in applying it to your life.

Memory Verse – This week’s memory verse:

*“But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.”
Colossians 3:14 NKJV*

Read Colossians 3:12-14.

These three verses begin the list of virtues or garments we are to put on. But first, in Colossians 3:12, we are reminded of three aspects of who we are and how God sees us.

1. The first description we see in Colossians 3:12 is the *elect* or *chosen of God*. Here you must recognize that the one and only God chose you, chose to send His Son to die for you! How does that make you feel?

2. The second description we find in verse 12 is *holy*. Paul is reminding the Colossians and us that we are *holy* in God’s eyes.

a. Define *holy*.

b. What does 1 Corinthians 6:11 say about how we are *holy*?

3. The third description we find in Colossians 3:12 is *beloved*. Stop and think about this for a minute, such a tender expression of how you are loved by God. How do you see this love in the following scriptures?

a. John 3:16

b. John 15:9

c. Romans 5:7-8

d. 1 John 4:9-10

4. Now let's look closer at the list in Colossians 3:12 of what we are to *put on*, one at a time. Next to each one, give a definition or simple explanation of what you understand them to mean in your walk.

a. tender mercies

b. kindness

c. humility

d. meekness

e. longsuffering

5. Colossians 3:13 gives us just two things to consider. First, *bearing with one another*.

a. What does this mean to you?

b. Why do we need this?

6. The next one on our list from verse 13 is *forgiveness*. We all know this word, but to build on our understanding, look for a definition to write below.

7. Paul went further with forgiveness in describing when and how we are to walk in it. Fill in the blanks from Colossians 3:13 NKJV to complete Paul's instruction on forgiveness.

What - ...and forgiving _____,

When - ...if anyone has _____;

How - ...even as _____.

a. What did Jesus say in Mark 11:25 about forgiveness?

b. What does Ephesians 4:32 include with forgiveness?

8. Colossians 3:14 is the culmination of verses 12 and 13.

a. In verse 14, what are we told to *put on*?

b. What does it mean when you see first the words, "*But above all these things...*"?

c. Complete the last phrase: ...*which is the* _____.

When we read these verses we see manifestations of love on the highest level, but love is larger than any one of them, and actually larger than all of them combined.

9. We can see that all of the Christian virtues or attitudes Paul presented for us to *put on* in Colossians 3:12-14 are aspects of true Christian love as it is taught in the scriptures. How do you see this in the following verses?

a. 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

b. Galatians 5:22-23

Read Colossians 3:15.

We have been looking at the list of attitudes we are to *put on*, or choose to walk in as the new man. Next, we look deeper at the condition of the heart and what it will produce.

1. In Colossians 3:15, what does Paul say should *rule in your heart*?
 - a. What does it mean for this to *rule in your heart*?
 - b. Notice this is not *peace with God* but the *peace of God*. What is the difference?
2. Verse 15 goes on to remind us that it is to this *peace* that we were called *in one body*. This means it should *rule* over our relationships with others in the body of Christ.
 - a. What do you find looking back at Colossians 3:13 that would be part of walking this out?
 - b. What does Ephesians 4:3 say can be the result of peace?
 - c. Who is our example of how to walk in this peace?
 - d. What does John 14:27 say about this peace?
3. There is one more part to the instruction in Colossians 3:15.
 - a. Write the last three words below.

 - b. 1 Thessalonians 5:18 might be a good verse to remember here. Write it out below.
4. How does Philippians 4:6-7 apply to Colossians 3:15?

Read Colossians 3:16.

Consider what Warren Wiersbe said about the *word of Christ*: “This means, of course, the Word of God. The false teachers came to Colosse with man-made traditions, religious rules, and human philosophies. They tried to harmonize God’s Word with their teachings, but they could not succeed, God’s Word always magnifies Jesus Christ.”

Remember John 1:1 - *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*

1. Colossians 3:16 begins, “***Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom...***” Consider the first word, a small word, but important. “*Let*” might be defined as: to cause to, or make; to give opportunity to or fail to prevent. This means we have a part in whether or not this happens.

What do you think we are to do in order to *let* the word of Christ dwell in us?

2. Now let’s look at the next few words. “*Let the word of Christ **dwell in you...***” To *dwell* in means to live in, to stay. How is this different than just reading the Bible?

3. How can the word of God *dwell in you **richly***? Perhaps this happens when you *let* or allow it to do its work in you. What riches do you see that are found in the Word from Hebrews 4:12?

4. Paul makes it clear that it is important that *the word if Christ dwells richly **in all wisdom***.

a. Remember the meaning of wisdom by writing it below.

b. Why do we need wisdom with the word of God?

c. Where do we get that wisdom? (James 1:5)

5. Colossians 3:16 finishes with how the word of Christ will flow out of us as it dwells in us.

a. Define teaching.

b. Define admonishing.

c. What heart attitude is reflected as we lift our voices *in songs, hymns and spiritual songs*?

“The word of Christ is to dwell in them so richly that it finds spontaneous expression in religious song in the Christian assemblies or the home.” (A. S. Peake)

In closing...

We all want to walk in the new man, putting on the characteristics of Christ. Opportunities to put these virtues into practice come every day, all through the week. When we read or discuss these verses in Colossians we agree fully, but when trouble comes in a relationship, do we apply them?

1. It is good for us to examine ourselves, so think back over your week.

a. Which of the virtues we discussed in this lesson were the hardest, or even missing in your interactions with others?

b. What can you do about that?

2. Again, as we examine ourselves in light of the instruction in this lesson, consider the challenge of letting peace rule in your hearts. This is another important thing that sets us apart from the world.

a. How do you see this in your day to day walk?

b. How will those around you, both believers and non-believers, see this in your walk?

3. Our memory verse this week really sums up so much of the teaching. Ask the Lord to show where you may need to *put on love*, and then ask for His help in walking this out in your life.

Memory Verse

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