



Week of February 18, 2019: 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”.

Discussion Questions Set #1

God “chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight” and “in love he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ”; we “also were included in Christ when [we] heard the message of truth” (Ephesians 1:4-5,13)

“Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless” (Ephesians 5:25-27).

“You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light” (1 Peter 2:9).

In sermon, we discussed that one of our enemy’s greatest tactics is to get us to doubt our identity in Christ; pointing out to us just how far short of this “ideal” we actually fall. Scripture labels him as the “accuser of our brothers and sisters” for good reason, since one of his aims is to accuse us into ineffectiveness and complacency.

1. Have you ever experienced a time in life when you’ve felt so undeserving of God’s blessing that you’ve actually drifted into ineffectiveness and complacency? Describe this experience. How did God lead you through this experience?
2. Discuss these identity statements and talk about what actions/behaviour/attitudes ought to come out of claiming this identity as one’s own:
 - a. God chose us in Him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless. We are God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved.
 - b. In love, we were predestined to be adopted into God’s family.
 - c. Christ loves us and sees us as radiant, without stain, wrinkle or any other blemish.
 - d. We are a royal priesthood.
 - e. We are God’s special possession.
3. If these are truths of how God sees the church, why do you think we often struggle to see ourselves in the same light?
4. How do you balance the idea that God really does see us this way (we are chosen, holy, loved, etc.), even though our experience often tells us something else is true of our identity (we are those who fall well short of God’s ideals as His people)?
5. Paul tells us that we have a responsibility to “put to death” or “take off” our old selves and “put on the new self” in Christ, whether we feel like new creations or not. What does this look like in a practical sense in your life? How does one clothe themselves in Christ?



Discussion Questions Set #2

“Put to death ... sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed. Rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips.” (Colossians 3:5,8)
“Clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Forgive as the Lord forgave you ... and over all these virtues put on love. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts ... and be thankful.” (Colossians 3:12-15)

Take Off

- Sexual Immorality
- Impurity
- Lust
- Evil desires
- Anger
- Rage
- Malice
- Slander
- Filthy Language

Put On

- Compassion
- Kindness
- Humility
- Gentleness
- Patience
- Forgiveness
- Love
- Peacefulness
- Thankfulness

1. Consider these two lists. How do the qualities on the right side cancel out the qualities on the left side?
2. Do any of the left side qualities stand out to you as having been present within God's people? Or perhaps present within your own life? How does Paul's encouragement to “**bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone**” help direct us when we encounter any of these left column issues within the church?
3. In our passage, Paul urges us to imagine love like an overcoat that covers all the other virtues comfortably. Love then ought to be the first thing we experience as we encounter the church. We would lead consistently with love and any other action we might take would proceed through a covering of love. Do you think the church – you and I – does a good job of this? Why or why not? How might we get better at “leading with love”?
4. Why do you think Paul closes this section of thought with the following encouragement: “**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**”?