



No. 9  
Series: Colossians

Colossians 3:12-17

August 3, 2025  
Brock Brockway

### Text

*[12] Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, [13] bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. [14] And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. [15] And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. [16] Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. [17] And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. (ESV)*

**Introduction** - Although it's hard for me to believe, I am getting to what's likely to be my mid-life. I know that's not hard for many of you to believe. You might look at me and see an old man, but it's still hard for me to comprehend. If it sinks in, I might find myself in a mid-life crisis. And if I do, I hope it's a good one! I'm sure you've seen the guys that try to reinvent themselves when they realize their lives are half over. They want to restart, to reinvent themselves, so they go for a new identity, a new look. New clothes for a new you. They think, "I don't want my life to end this way. Something needs to get cooler or more exciting. Maybe I'll get in shape, buy a motorcycle or sports car, shave my hair, grow my hair out, become hip." I'm sure you've seen people do this. It's often silly, people trying to reinvent themselves, but sometimes it's not a joke. I can be a tragedy for them and their loved one if they try to flip their lives over completely or blow everything up and start from scratch.

Although it's generally not wise, and is often futile, to try to reinvent ourselves with external changes, Paul has been teaching us that Jesus can make us brand new people. He can spiritually give us a new life. When we trust in him, he buries us with himself in his death, and he raises us with himself to new life. And when he does this, he makes us new people. And then he tells us to change our clothes. Put on new clothes for the new you. As we look at our text today, we will see that we must Change our clothes and Put on Christ. **Pray**

**Background** – V1 last week, Christ reigns above. Set your mind on above - His salvation and His rule, not your achievement. 9-11 **Gal-NLT**. You all, regardless of background, traditions, or behaviors, are new, reinvented in Christ. He is all and in all. 5-11 is against earthly passions and desires. Change your clothes! Take off nasty, shabby clothes of negative-selfish vices, put on the new self, individually and corporately. Not accustomed to this, but dress in *light, clean,*

bride of King, **Matt**. What do these metaphors look like in practice? Three elements of our new outfit in Christ from the three Greek sentences – *character, peace, and word*.

**Christ's Character – Loving Relationships** – 12-14 – 12 Put on 5 virtues/fruit vs 5x2 vices in 5&8. Reminder of identity, used of Israel in OT, Jesus in NT (Chosen One, Holy One, Beloved Son), and now church united to Christ. God chose you, saved by grace, changed identity from enemy and described you as his holy, beloved people. You are new people, now act like it. Change clothes. Change how you relate to others to be like God, Jesus. *Compassionate hearts* (bowels), deep affections, attitude to others. *Kindness*-others, *humility*-self, *meekness*-approach to others, *patience*-react with humble meekness. Not rude, arrogant, resentful, angry. 13 *Bearing* - restrain selfish desire to give up. *Forgive*, for the aggrieved, offended. It's easy to blame shift in conflict. **Melick**. Jesus took responsibility to save us when we rebelled, sinned, were enemies. Reconciled people have no excuse to not try to reconcile. *Forgive. Let it go. Fix it.* 14 On top of all the other clothes, *love* is the greatest virtue/fruit of Spirit. Ties the church together in *perfect harmony* and unity as Christ's body. Every good deed is nothing without it. *Are you loving? Is your life increasingly showing these fruits?*

**Christ's Peace – Church Harmony** – 15 – 15 *Peace rule* is interesting. True that Christ gives peace with God, Rom5. Through prayer God gives peace in *heart* and mind in Christ, Phil4. And here, referring to corporate *Shalom* in Church called as *One Body* operating in harmony. Pax Romana suppressed conflict in Rome's borders and enabled prosperity and spread of gospel. Here Pax Christi or Pax Christiana *umpires/arbitrates*, brings harmony to church. True submission to Christ's *rule in heart* results in right actions and attitudes among members and shared direction to work together harmoniously. *Be thankful* for Christ's forgiveness and grace to them. *Thankfulness* for other believers to live with. Only time worded like this in NT, *be defined by thankfulness*. Entire Christian life is lived in gratitude. Gospel motivates-thankful people not driven by sinful self-interest. Gospel *gratitude breeds a loving attitude* and create harmony within the body. This is the Pax Christi. *Do you think about Christ's rule when you find yourself in a situation that could lead to church conflict and disunity? Are you thankful? Are you submitting to Christ? Conflict isn't always bad, but is should glorify Christ.*

**Christ's Word – Faithful Service** – 16-17 – 16 The Word of Christ is the word about Christ, God's word, the Bible. *You* is plural. *Dwell among you*. Bible must dwell in individuals to be shared corporately. *Does the Bible pass through us on Sunday as a trespasser? Is it a daily commuter in a terminal? Does it live in us? How are you helping the word to dwell among the body RICHLY?* As in 1:28, *moral and theological instruction with wisdom*. Wise saints counseling one another. *Singing* together is one powerful way. Psalms, theological rich songs, other Christian songs. **Melick**. *Gentle challenge, are you prioritizing singing together?* Sunday is main singing event. Half the church comes in late and misses many songs. Kent Hughes' **Disciplines**, include prioritizing corporate worship. Plan ahead, go to bed, get up early, pray in advance, show up on time to serve, expect Christ to speak through you, reach out to people-regular attenders or visitor. Result will be Body of Christ built up, increased thankfulness to God, service from the heart, not just mouth or acts. Participation in small groups, meals, conversations throughout the week-make the word central in all.

17 Brings us to the final area affected by Christ's word, all of our works. All of life is worship. All of life must be service to Christ, doing all as worship to him, with his authority, as his representative in the world. *Ask if you can do whatever you are doing in Christ's name. Does he want you to do it? Are you repping him well in conversations, decisions, relationships, work, priorities, use of time-talent-treasure? Is your life a big "THANK YOU" to God the Father through Jesus for what God has done for you?*

**Non-Believer** – If what I am talking about is intriguing to you, you too can know Christ. You can start a life defined by gratitude, thankfulness to God as your Father through Christ. No works or religious participation can save you. I saw a meme this week that said something like this: Religions say, "I screwed up. Dad's going to kill me!" Christianity says, "I screwed up. I need to call my dad." If you go to the God through Jesus, God will adopt you as his child. He will reinvent you. You will be transferred from darkness to light. You will put on a new identity in Christ, as holy, beloved, chosen child of God. Don't delay. I and all the other members here would love to talk to you about this today.

**Conclusion** – Change your clothes! Put on Christ. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

## **References**

**Galatians 3:27–28** - For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

**Colossians 3:9-11 NLT** - Don't lie to each other, for you have stripped off your old sinful nature and all its wicked deeds. Put on your new nature and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him. In this new life, it doesn't matter if you are a Jew or a Gentile, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbaric, uncivilized, slave, or free. Christ is all that matters, and he lives in all of us.

**Matthew 5:14,16** - "You are the light of the world...let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

**Ephesians 5:25–27** - ...Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. **Revelation 21:2** - And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

**Richard R. Melick, Jr.** - It obviously speaks to the offended party, not the offending one. It may be that the offending person had little, if any, awareness of what he had done. The offended should take initiative in enduring and forgiving, rather than waiting for the offender to apologize. By enduring and forgiving, the conscience is cleansed and the matter forgotten. The burden is lifted, and the offended can think and act like Christ even toward the offender. Harboring resentment and ill will toward another does little good, and to do so is beneath Christians. Anyone can hold grudges, but the mark of Christians is that they do not. They forgive regardless. The pattern for this behavior is Christ's forgiving the believer. In 3:16, the pastoral function Paul claimed for himself in 1:28 is broadened to include the entire congregation and the medium of music. Few activities have such ability to teach, prompt recall, and encourage [as corporate singing], and they have always been a vital part of Christianity...Nothing else pleases God. Nothing else teaches and admonishes others as well as the heartfelt, enthusiastic singing that comes from those who know personally what grace means.