

**CONTEXT FOR YOU**

Think about the clothes you put on every day. Each item serves a purpose, right? A jacket for warmth, shoes for comfort, or a hat for sun protection. In the same way, there are things we need to "put on" spiritually to reflect who we are in Christ. Paul talks in Colossians 3:12-17 about how we should "clothe" ourselves with godly characteristics that point others to Jesus. It’s not about wearing a Christian T-shirt or quoting Bible verses—it’s about living out the qualities that reflect Christ's love and grace. In today’s lesson, we’ll dive into how our actions, attitudes, and the way we live should always point back to Jesus.

But here’s the question—after we’ve “put to death” the old self, what are we supposed to put on in its place? What does the new life in Christ look like in practical terms? That’s where today’s passage comes in. Paul doesn’t just leave us with the command to “put to death” our sinful ways; he gives us a clear picture of what it means to live in the fullness of Christ by telling us to “put on” the qualities that reflect His character.

In Colossians 3:12-17, Paul shares what it looks like when we truly embrace the new life we have in Jesus. It’s not just about trying to be good people or following a set of rules; it’s about living in a way that reveals Christ’s love and grace to the world around us. These actions are not merely behaviors to be checked off—they are reflections of the new identity we have in Jesus. When we live in this way, we are pointing others back to Him in everything we do. Just as we are called to put to death the things of the world, we are also called to put on the virtues of Christ, making them visible in our interactions with one another.

**OPEN THE CONVERSATION**

Take some time to build relationships with the students:

-Ask for each student’s high and low from the week.

-Today’s RBQ (Relationship Building Question): If you could spend a whole day with any person (alive or from history), who would it be, and why?

***READ COLOSSIANS 3:12-17***

1. **What do you think it means to “clothe yourselves” with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience?**
2. **Paul says we should forgive others the way Jesus forgave us. How does Jesus’ forgiveness shape the way we should forgive others?**
3. **What does it mean for the “peace of Christ to rule” in our hearts? How does this peace change how we approach conflict or stress in our lives?**
4. **Why do you think Paul emphasizes thankfulness here? How does gratitude play into our relationship with Jesus?**
5. **How can we make sure that everything we do—whether it's a task at home, school, or with friends—points back to Jesus?**

**WRAP UP**

* **How does today’s passage change your view of who Jesus is?**
* **What’s one practical way you can keep Jesus at the center of your life this week?**

*Ask for any prayer requests, and pray for one another.*

**EXTENDED CUT**

In this portion of his letter to the Colossians, Paul continues to encourage believers to live out the reality of their new identity in Christ. Colossians 3:12-17 is a practical outworking of the theological truths Paul has been teaching throughout the letter. Having previously emphasized the believer’s position in Christ—raised with Him and hidden in Him (Colossians 3:1-4)—Paul now moves from theological instruction to practical application. He’s calling the Colossians to embody their new identity by living out the virtues of Christ’s character. In the earlier verses of Colossians 3, Paul urges believers to “put to death” the sinful behaviors associated with their old life and to “put on” the new self, which is being renewed in the image of its Creator (Colossians 3:9-10). The passage we are focusing on today builds on this idea, showing what this new self looks like in action. Paul outlines the virtues that should define a Christian life: compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, forbearance, forgiveness, and above all, love. These virtues are not just traits to aspire to—they are the natural result of the believer’s relationship with Jesus and the transforming work of the Holy Spirit. This passage also highlights the importance of peace and unity in the Christian community. Paul urges believers to “let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts” (Colossians 3:15), a peace that is not merely about personal tranquility but the kind of peace that governs relationships within the body of Christ. The peace of Christ should shape how believers interact with one another, fostering an atmosphere of unity and harmony. This peace is the result of being reconciled with God through Christ, and it is a peace that should extend into every relationship. Lastly, Paul calls the Colossians to be a people who are rich in the Word of Christ. They are to let the Word of Christ “dwell among them richly” (Colossians 3:16). This means that the teachings of Christ should not just be something they hear on Sundays but should be deeply woven into the fabric of their daily lives. The Word of Christ should shape their attitudes, guide their decisions, and inform their relationships. In addition, Paul encourages them to teach and admonish one another with wisdom and to express their gratitude through worship—singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs.

**What do you think it means to “clothe yourselves” with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience?**

"Clothing yourselves" with these qualities means to intentionally put them on every day, like choosing to wear clothes. It’s a choice to act in ways that reflect these traits, whether it’s showing kindness to someone who’s rude, or being patient in a stressful situation. It’s about making an effort to live out these virtues and let them shape how we interact with others.

**Paul says we should forgive others the way Jesus forgave us. How does Jesus’ forgiveness shape the way we should forgive others?**

Jesus forgives unconditionally, no matter what we’ve done, and even when we don’t deserve it. This sets the standard for how we should forgive others—it’s not about waiting for someone to apologize first, but about letting go of hurt and offering forgiveness because we’ve already been forgiven by Christ. Jesus’ forgiveness teaches that we should let go of grudges and offer grace instead of holding onto bitterness.

**What does it mean for the “peace of Christ to rule” in our hearts? How does this peace change how we approach conflict or stress in our lives?**

Letting the peace of Christ rule means allowing His peace to be the deciding factor in how we respond to challenges or conflicts. Instead of reacting with anger or anxiety, we rely on God’s peace to guide our decisions. This peace helps us approach difficult situations with calm and trust in God, knowing that He is in control, even when things feel overwhelming.

**Why do you think Paul emphasizes thankfulness here? How does gratitude play into our relationship with Jesus?**

Thankfulness helps us focus on God’s goodness rather than on what’s going wrong. By being thankful, we remember all the ways God has blessed us, which strengthens our relationship with Him. Gratitude keeps our hearts humble and aware of how much Jesus has done for us, which motivates us to live in a way that honors Him.

**How can we make sure that everything we do—whether it's a task at home, school, or with friends—points back to Jesus?**

We can make sure that everything we do points back to Jesus by doing everything with a heart that honors Him. Whether it’s working hard in school, helping around the house, or being kind to friends, our actions should reflect Jesus’ love, truth, and integrity. By doing everything as if we are serving Him, we make sure our lives point to Jesus, no matter what we’re doing.