

Whatever You Do; Colossians 3:14-17

I. Put On Love

- a. Colossians 3:14 (ESV) ¹⁴ And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.
- b. This is something that takes a back seat (a lot of the time) to teaching, doctrine, and knowledge.
- c. Love is the key that surpasses all covenants and promises.
 - i. Deuteronomy 6:4–9 (ESV) ⁴ “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. ⁵ You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. ⁶ And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. ⁷ You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. ⁸ You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. ⁹ You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.
 - ii. Jesus repeats this commandment in the Gospels.
 - iii. Mark 12:28–30 (ESV) ²⁸ And one of the scribes came up and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, asked him, “Which commandment is the most important of all?” ²⁹ Jesus answered, “The most important is, ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. ³⁰ And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’
 - iv. Love is the reason God sent Jesus to be our sacrifice.
 - v. In verse 13 we are told, “as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.”
 - vi. Just as God loved us (and forgave us) we must also love each other (and forgive each other).
- d. Love is a verb.
 - i. I know that both the Greek and the English language say that ‘love’ is a noun.
 - ii. I am not arguing against the English and Greek scholars.
 - iii. I want to share with you that love is not really love without action.
 - iv. John 13:34–35 (ESV) ³⁴ A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. ³⁵ By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”
 - v. If love is just a feeling, then how will people know we are disciples of Jesus?
 1. “Nobody cares how much you know until they know how much you care” Theodore Roosevelt.
 2. “Actions speak louder than words, and are more regarded” Abraham Lincoln in *Melancholy State of Province*, 1736.
 3. Jesus is the originator of that idea in John 13:34, “as I have loved you.”
 4. He gave His life for ours.
- e. Romans 13:14 (NIV84) ¹⁴ Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature.
- f. We must remember that when we clothe ourselves with Christ, we are putting on love.

II. Put On Christ

- a. Colossians 3:15–16 (ESV) 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.
- b. The Peace of Christ.
 - i. A state of well-being ¹
 - ii. This is encapsulated in our salvation.
 - iii. Being saved ensures our well-being for the rest of our lives here and in eternity.
 - iv. This word is further defined by the lexicon, saying, “the peace brought by Christ.”
 - v. Rule: be in control of someone’s activity by making a decision, *be judge, decide* ²
 - vi. Our salvation must be in control of our activity, it must be the judge of our behavior, it must decide our actions!
 - vii. We make decisions based on our salvation, our eternity with God.
 - viii. We were (are) called by the Gospel of Jesus to the ONE Body of Christ (the church).
- c. The Word of Christ.
 - i. The word of Christ can only mean the Gospel.
 - ii. The Gospel leads us to Jesus, our savior.
 - iii. His blood cleanses us, redeems us, reconciles us back into the garden relationship with God.
 - iv. We use the Gospel to admonish and teach each other.
 - v. Using the Gospel to admonish and teach is ‘all wisdom.’
 - vi. We take the first half of the verse and apply it to our lives, then we take the last half of the verse and apply it to Sunday morning worship.
 - vii. The verse says to Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly AS YOU teach and admonish one another, and AS YOU sing to God.
 1. I sing all the time.
 2. I used to have music playing all the time.
 3. I measured the years by the music I was listening to.
 4. We sang a lot of hymns at Elijah’s memorial.
 5. “Music has charms to soothe a savage breast” from a character in William Congreve’s 1697 play *The Mourning Bride*.
 6. I love how Todd always looks for hymns that come directly from Scripture.
 - viii. The Gospel should live in and through us.
 - ix. Galatians 3:26–29 (ESV) ²⁶ for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. ²⁷ For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male

¹ William Arndt et al., [*A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*](#) (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 287.

² William Arndt et al., [*A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*](#) (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 183.

and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

III. Whatever You Do

- a. Colossians 3:17 (ESV) 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.
 - i. This is not a formula of words that we say, but a manner of living.
 - ii. Putting on love and Christ change our manner of living.
- b. We are a new person; we have a new purpose in life; to help those around us both physically and spiritually.
 - i. We were created for good works (Ephesians 2:10).
 - ii. We are tasked with teaching others who can teach others (2 Timothy 2:2).
 - iii. 2 Corinthians 5:17 (ESV) ¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.
 - iv. Ephesians 4:22–24 (ESV) ²² to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, ²³ and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, ²⁴ and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.
 - v. Colossians 3:10 (ESV) ¹⁰ and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.
- c. We become someone completely new in our immersion.
- d. Romans 6:4 (ESV) ⁴ We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.
- e. Whatever we do in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus!