

LESSON 8
COLOSSIANS 3:12-17

Review your memory verses from Colossians.

Memorize Colossians 3:12, 13. ___ Yes! Said to _____.

Read Colossians in one sitting. So far, what has impressed you most from this book?

Read Colossians 3:12-17.

1. Verse 12 in the NASB begins, "And so" and in the NIV begins, "Therefore." Each one indicates a conclusion to what has gone before. To what do these phrases refer? (Note especially Colossians 2:20 and 3:1.)

2. From verse 12 list the things we are to put on, define each and give the opposite of each. (Dictionaries are a great tool in Bible study.)

3. Notice that verse 12 says to "put on" or "clothe" yourself with these things. Does that mean you are to fake it? What does it mean and how *do* you do it? (We don't have to figure this out on our own; the previous context tells us.)

4. Give an example of how *each* of the characteristics of verse 12 could be worked out in a close relationship, family or otherwise.

5. From verse 12, what does it mean for you to be –
a) chosen of God

b) holy

c) beloved (or dearly loved)

6. How does knowing the above influence how you relate to others?

7. From verse 13 what does it mean to –
a) bear with one another

b) forgive each other

Do you see a difference?

8. What is our example and motivation for forgiving one another?

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9. In verse 14 we are told to put on *love*, which is a uniting bond. Today we're told that love means never having to say you're sorry; love makes the world go 'round; love is a warm feeling or a warm puppy. One wag even said "Love is something like a wizard, it wraps itself around your heart and tickles at your gizzard!!" Read I Corinthians 13:1-13. Would you say that love is an emotion or an act of the will? What characteristic of love would you like to see God increase in *your* love for others?
10. To whom are we to show all the characteristics we have looked at thus far in Colossians 3:12-14? Who may we exclude?
11. Decide in which of the above characteristics you need improvement. Ask someone to pray with you about this. (We need each other, remember!)
12. What does it mean to let the peace of God rule in your hearts (plural) and how does this relate to your being in the one body (verse 15)?
13. What does it mean to let the word of God dwell within you richly and how can that aid you as you seek to do the other things mentioned in verse 16?
14. Verse 17 says to do *all* in word or deed "in the name of the Lord Jesus." What does this mean?

15. How does it relate to your speech and actions?

a) on the job –

b) shopping –

c) relating to family or friends –

d) doing household chores –

e) pursuing recreational activities –

16. What is mentioned three times in verses 15-17?

17. Looking back over Colossians 3:12-17, write a prayer of praise to God for all you are and have because of God's lavish grace. Ask Him to make these truths real in your heart as well as in your mind. Ask Him to remind you of who you are and what God has done for you as you relate to others.