

CLOTHED IN CHRIST

COLOSSIANS 3:12-17

CHURCH GROUP SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE – MARCH 16, 2025

BIG IDEA

When we become followers of Christ, we receive a new identity—a whole new spiritual wardrobe. But too many Christians try to wear their old, tattered rags of sin while claiming to live in Christ’s righteousness. Paul calls us to take off the old and put on the new—to intentionally clothe ourselves in Christ’s character, let His peace rule, saturate our lives with His Word, and do everything for His glory.

SERMON SUMMARY AND KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Illustration:

The sermon opened with a Navy SEAL training exercise in which the preacher and his team expected to step onto solid ground but instead sank into deep waters. His Operations Officer waded into the water, fully clothed, to help. This moment serves as a metaphor for how Christ enters our brokenness, rescues us, and clothes us in His righteousness.

Paul’s words in Colossians 3 describe three aspects of being “clothed in Christ”:

- Wear Christ’s Character (Colossians 3:12-14)
 - Paul instructs believers to “put on” Christlike virtues such as compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, patience, and love.
 - This is not about improving our behavior but embracing the new identity Christ has already given us.
 - 2 Corinthians 5:21 reminds us that Christ exchanged our sin for His righteousness.
 - Love is the bond that holds all these virtues together.
- Walk in Christ’s Peace (Colossians 3:15)
 - The peace of Christ should “rule” in our hearts like an umpire, guiding our decisions and relationships.
 - True peace is not found in circumstances but in being reconciled to God through Christ (Romans 5:1).
 - We are not called to live in isolation; peace must define our relationships within the church.
- Welcome Christ’s Word (Colossians 3:16-17)
 - The Word of Christ must dwell in us richly, shaping our worship, teaching, and daily lives.
 - We are called to live lives of gratitude, doing everything in the name of Jesus.
 - Our actions should reflect that we have been clothed in Christ’s righteousness.

ICE BREAKER QUESTION

Can you think of a time when you felt completely unprepared for something? How did you respond?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Observation: What Does the Text Say?

1. What qualities does Paul instruct believers to “put on” in Colossians 3:12-14?
2. What does Paul mean when he says love “binds everything together in perfect harmony” (v. 14)?
3. According to verse 15, what role should Christ’s peace have in our hearts?
4. How does Paul describe the importance of the Word of Christ dwelling in us (v. 16)?

Interpretation: What Does the Text Mean?

5. Why do you think Paul uses the imagery of clothing to describe the Christian life?
6. What does it mean for Christ’s peace to “rule” in our hearts? How is this different from simply feeling at peace?
7. Why is it essential for the Word of Christ to “dwell in us richly”? How does this shape our lives?
8. Paul connects worship with being filled with God’s Word (v. 16). How does worship help us live out our faith?

Application: What Do I Do? (These questions help apply the message to daily life.)

9. Which of the characteristics in Colossians 3:12-14 do you find most difficult to “put on”? What steps can you take to grow in that area?
10. How can you allow Christ’s peace to rule in your heart in a specific area of your life this week?
11. What are some ways you can let the Word of Christ “dwell richly” in your daily routine?
12. In what practical ways can you reflect Christ’s love in your relationships, workplace, or home?

PRAYER PROMPTS

Personal Transformation:

“Lord, help me to take off my old sinful habits and put on the character of Christ. Show me where I am still clinging to my old ways, and transform me from the inside out.”

For Peace in Our Community:

“God, may Your peace rule in our hearts and our relationships. Let us be a church that reflects the unity and love of Christ, bearing with one another in patience and forgiveness.”

For the Word of Christ to Shape Our Lives:

“Lord, let Your Word dwell in me richly. Help me to prioritize time in Scripture so that my heart, mind, and actions reflect Your truth.”

“Clothed in Christ”

In waters deep where once I nearly drowned, When what seemed solid proved not to be ground, Christ reached His hand to lift me from the sea, And offered garments of eternity.

He took my rags, stained dark with sin and shame, And gave me robes that bear His holy name. Compassion, kindness, patience now I wear, With humble heart and love beyond compare.

His peace now rules as referee within, Directing paths away from former sin. His Word dwells richly in my heart and mind, A home where truth and grace are intertwined.

No longer clothed in what I was before, But dressed in Christ from now forevermore. We stand united, strengthened by His love, His mercy lifting broken hearts above.

-tp

Inspired by Colossians 3:12-17