

Lesson 10**Colossians 3:12-17****Colossians 3:12-17**

- 12 Put on^a then, as God's chosen ones^b, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts^c, kindness^d, humility, meekness, and patience^e,
- 13 bearing^f 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^g put on^h loveⁱ, which binds everything together in perfect harmony^j.
- 15 And let the peace of Christ^k rule^l in your hearts^m, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.
- 16 Let the wordⁿ of Christ dwell^o in you richly, teaching and admonishing^q one another in all wisdom^r, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual^s songs^t, with thankfulness^u 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^v him.

- Notes a NJB, NRSV sim., NIV sim. "you are to be clothed"
 b KJV, ASV sim. "the elect of God"
 c KJV "bowels of compassion"
 d NJB "generosity"
 e KJV, ASV "longsuffering"
 f REB, CEB "be tolerant"
 g NJB "over all these clothes"; NIV "over all these virtues"
 h NRSV "clothe yourselves with"
 i KJV "charity"
 j NASU, HCSB, CEB, NIV "unity"; NJB "put on love, the perfect bond"
 k HCSB "Messiah" (also in v.16)
 l NJB "reign"
 m HCSB, CEB "control your hearts"
 n REB "gospel"
 o CEB "live"
 p REB, HCSB, NIV "among"; NASU "within"; NJB "find a home with"
 KJV inserts "in all wisdom", associating it with the first phrase instead of the second
 q NJB "advise"; REB "instruct"
 r "in all wisdom" could modify "dwell in you richly" (KJV)
 s NJB "inspired"; NIV "songs from the Spirit"
 t "psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs" could be associated with the "teaching and admonishing", i.e. "teaching and admonishing one another in psalms, ..." (KJV, ASV, NASU, NIV), or with singing as in ESV (NJB, NRSV, REB, HCSB, NAB, CEB).
 u KJV, ASV "grace"
 v KJV "by"

Comments / Questions

1. In 2:1-11, Paul insists that the Colossians "*put to death*" the things of the world (v.5) and then says that having "*put off the old self*" they should "*put on the new self*" (v.9-10). The imagery is that of putting on a set of clothes. Beginning in v. 12, what are they specifically to "*put on*"?
- | | |
|----|----|
| 1) | 5) |
| 2) | 6) |
| 3) | 7) |
| 4) | 8) |

2. It is not uncommon for Paul to identify those characteristics that Christians should possess. Compare these two passages and note the similarities and differences.
 - a. Galatians 5:22-23, "the fruits of the Spirit"
 - b. Ephesians 4:1-2
3. All these qualities that a Christian is to possess have already been displayed to us in God or Jesus. We are simply to emulate them. Paul makes that point specifically with respect to forgiveness: "as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive." Explain: in what ways has the Lord forgiven us that serves as example to us in our forgiving?
4. At the top of the list ("above all these"), the Christian is to "put on love." It is clearly one of Paul's favorite words (used by him over 90 times in his letters – according to my Bible software). Why is it first in importance, and how does that relate to Paul's further description of it as that "which binds everything together in perfect harmony"?
5. The common theme of v. 15-17 is thankfulness. For what are we to be thankful, and to whom do we express our thanks?
6. There are many parallel passages between Colossians and Ephesians, but probably none more so than these:

Colossians 3:16-17

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. 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.

Ephesians 5:18-21

And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

- a. Any real difference between the "word of Christ" dwelling in you and being "filled with the Spirit"? Why then the difference?
- b. Read the textual *Note t* above. Regardless of the translation, is it still true that one way to 'teach and admonish' each other is through singing?
- c. There seems to be some distinction between "psalms", "hymns", and "spiritual songs", but the distinction is not clear. Psalms probably relates to the OT Psalms, hymns are expressions of praise to God or Jesus (= "Lord"?), and spiritual songs are probably best understood as songs of the Spirit (see 1 Cor 14:15).
- d. In Colossians we are to "do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus" while in Ephesians we are to give "thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." What is the significance of doing things "in the name of" Jesus?