

Recap of 10/24/21 (Col 3:12-3:17):

1. Paul states his purpose in proclaiming Jesus as well as admonishing and teaching in His name. The purpose is to bring everyone to maturity in Christ. Paul labors in letter writing and prayer to help mature the saints. An indication of this maturity is unity (hearts knit together in love) and being fully assured through a true knowledge of God's mystery which is His Son, Jesus Christ.

2. In this section, Paul gives us the attitudes and actions required for thriving relationships. Previously, we studied those things we ought to take off, the things of our old (pre-saved) self; immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, greed, anger, wrath, malice, slander, abusive speech and lies (Col 3:5-9). Instead we are to put on Christ-like attitudes and take Christ-like actions; compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, forbearance, forgiveness, love, peace, and gratitude (Col 3:12-15). Yielding to the Holy Spirit is critical to consistently displaying these Christ-like characteristics.

3. Forgiveness is one of the most important parts to maintaining good relationships. We are commanded to forgive in several Bible passages, but we often misunderstand forgiveness; largely because of our modern, therapeutic culture. Biblical forgiveness is not one sided, it involves both parties in a relationship; one asking for and one granting forgiveness. Biblical forgiveness is relationship restoring and is conditioned upon the offending person asking for it. We saw that although God's love is unconditional, His forgiveness is conditioned on belief in Christ. Because God has forgiven us, we are called to forgive others as often as they ask for it. Our forgiveness, like God's should be inexhaustible.

4. Paul gives tells us that the peace of Christ, the Word of Christ, and the name of Christ help us put on these Christ-like attitudes and actions. The peace of Christ (Php 4:6-8) means that we don't worry, we are not anxious, we are free to live for Christ and one another. The Word of Christ (Bible) should richly dwell in us. God's Word dwelling in us creates in us Christlikeness. It gives us wisdom, helps us teach and lovingly correct one another, and makes us grateful people. We are called Christians because we belong to Christ. We carry His name. Remembering that and wanting to carry His name well and not defame it, helps us live in Col 3:12-14 instead of Col 3:5-9.