

Colossians 3:11

Moving from character to values.

Paul gives THREE COMMANDS:

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|--|---|--|
| 1) 3:12 – cloth yourself and yourselves with Christian characteristics | → | <u>RESULTS:</u> Social Relationships |
| 2) 3:15 – let the “peace of Christ” rule the church | → | Harmony in the church |
| 3) 3:16 – let the “word of Christ” dwell in the church | → | Welcome the influence of the Word of God |

3:11 - Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.

- Artificial distinctions: National (Greek or Jew), religion (circumcised or uncircumcised), culture (barbarian or Scythian), economic (slave or free)
- Philemon was a free man and Onesimus was a slave, yet both were in the Colossian church.
- Paul does make the distinction that all the members of the church have Christ.
- This is still a discussion concerning treating each other right from 3:9 – “do not lie to each other.”

3:12 - Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience,

“Put on” or “clothe yourselves” is **endyo** the same word used in 3:10 – “have put on the new self”

This is a new look for the new man in the new clothes.

Since you are a new man:

- chosen,
- holy and
- beloved

Start being or wearing new clothes:

- compassionate,
- kind,
- humble,
- meek
- patient

The focus of these new clothes is harmony in the church and patience with each other.

3:12 are individual qualities, but 3:13 will follow with interpersonal qualities shared between each other.

3:13 - bearing 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.

The focus here is not being offended by each other.

“Bearing with one another” means to endure each other. And, if need be forgive.

The focus here is on the person being offended or wronged. That is the person who is to be enduring, not thin skinned.

The comparison is made “as the Lord has forgiven.” The Lord was the one offended, but he endures to help us

3:14 - And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

The number one virtue is love, agape.

The Greek actually has the definite article that is not translated, otherwise it would read “the love,” as if some particular act or behavior was in mind.

This “the love” is the thing that binds all the believers together in perfect harmony.

This “love” is what would bring the group to **teleiotos** or “completeness” which refers to the appropriate and logical end of the this whole Christian experiment: LOVE, the love of God

Την	αγαπην	ο	εστιν	συνδεσμος	της	τελειστητος
Ten	agapan	o	estin	sondesmos	tas	teleiotos
The	love	which is		the bond	--	of completeness

Now read Ephesians 4:14-17

John 13:34 – love one another

John 14:25-27 – my peace I give you

Ephesians 4:1-7then Ephesians 4:22-5:3 goes a little different direction and not towards church harmony

3:15 - And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.

The second command would make unity and harmony the most important goal.

Two things are concerned here:

- 1) Personal peace and a sense of well being
- 2) Community harmony and a sense of cooperation

3:16 - 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.

And, note Ephesians parallel verse focuses on "be filled with the Spirit." In Ephesian 5:18-21

Two sides of the same coin: The Word and The Spirit

3:17 - 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.

3:18 - Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.

3:19 - Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them.

3:20 - Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.

3:21 - Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.

3:22 - Bondservants, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord.

3:23 - Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men,

3:24 - knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

3:25 - For the wrongdoer will be paid back for the wrong he has done, and there is no partiality.