

# Colossians 3:12-17

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

**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.

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

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

**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.

**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.

- These are the virtues of the new life of the believer that need to be developed
- The focus here is the characteristics of the life of the believer among other believers in order that there might be unity, peace and growth in the body of Christ. These character traits among believers will help the church avoid worldly friction caused by human nature.
  - The focus here is not living among non-believers
  - The focus here is on living among other believers
- 3:15-17 capture three messages:
  - Internal life and experience of the local believers
  - Combination of instruction, mutual care and worship
  - All of the varied life experience of the believer is shaped and done to honor Christ
- Three focus on Christ:
  - 3:15 – the Peace of Christ
  - 3:16 – the Word of Christ
  - 3:17 – the Name of Christ

**Colossians 3:12** – “Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience,”

1746 [e]	3767 [e]	5613 [e]	1588 [e]	3588 [e]	2316 [e]	40 [e]	2532 [e]	25 [e]
Endysasthe	oun	hōs	eklektōi	tou	Theou	hagioi	kai	ēgarēmenoi
<b>12</b> Ἐνδύσασθε	οὖν ,	ὥς	ἐκλεκτοὶ	τοῦ	Θεοῦ ,	ἅγιοι	καὶ	ἠγαπημένοι ,
Put on	therefore	as	[the] elect	-	of God	holy	and	beloved
V-AMM-2P	Conj	Adv	Adj-NMP	Art-GMS	N-GMS	Adj-NMP	Conj	V-RPM/P-NMP

4698 [e]	3628 [e]	5544 [e]	5012 [e]	4240 [e]	3115 [e]
splanchna	oiktirmou	chrēstotēta	tapeinophrosynēn	prautēta	makrothymian
σπλάγχνα	οἰκτιρμοῦ ,	χρηστότητα ,	ταπεινοφροσύνην ,	πραῦτητα ,	μακροθυμίαν ;
hearts	of compassion	kindness	humility	gentleness	[and] patience
N-ANP	N-GMS	N-AFS	N-AFS	N-AFS	N-AFS

1. "Put on" – *endyssasthe* – means "to clothe" or "be clothed with" which captures the idea of sinking into a garment
  - a. The believer has already "put on the new self" according to Colossians 3:10 (phase one)
  - b. The believer has already been commanded to "put to death" (3:5) and "rid yourselves" (3:8) of the vices of human nature
  - c. This word "put on" or "clothe" is an aorist imperative which makes it a command and a command that is to be taken care of immediately.
2. The basis for this command:
  - a. "elect of God" – **Chosen** -
  - b. "set apart" for God – **Holy** -
  - c. "loved" by God – **Loved** –
3. Five Christian values:
  - a. "**compassion**" – *oiktirmou* – compassion, pity, favor, mercy. It is a deep feeling about someone's difficult situation or misfortune. It is tenderness expressed to those suffering and miserable.
  - b. "**kindness**" – *chrestoteta* – goodness, excellence, uprightness. This is a combination of goodness, kindness and graciousness. It has been describes in English as a "sweetness of disposition."
    - i. Opposite of "severity" in Romans 11:22: "Note then the **kindness** and the **severity** of God: severity toward those who have fallen, but God's kindness to you, provided you continue in his kindness. Otherwise you too will be cut off."
  - c. "**humility**" – *tapeinophrosyner* – lowliness of mind, modesty, humility. Originally referred to the attitude of one serving, trying to please or win the favor of another. It came to refer to a humble attitude which is the opposite of thinking arrogantly and being self-assertive.
    - i. "humility" and "gentleness" are related terms, but were NOT considered virtues in the ancient world of Greece and Rome.
    - ii. In the world it is still true that: "From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force."  
– Matthew 11:22
      1. This is when the worldly man enters the church and begins to maneuver and rule the way the world does in their kingdoms.
      2. The people of God should defend themselves from the world as needed, but the church does not function internally as the world.
      3. Matthew 20:20-28 – James and John ask to rule:  
"You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant
  - d. "**gentleness**" – *prauteta* – gentleness, mildness. This was the quality of a person who was careful to consider the rights and feelings of others. The man willing to make concessions. (Not compromise, but understand another point of view or another person's concern.)
    - i. Jesus – Matthew 11:29 – "Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."
    - ii. Fruit of the Spirit Gal. 5:23
    - iii. A characteristic of a person following Christ in Matthew 5:5 – "'Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.'" (*praeis* = meek, mild, gentle)

3107 [e]	3588 [e]	4239 [e]	3754 [e]	846 [e]	2816 [e]	3588 [e]	1093 [e]
Makarioi	hoi	praeis	Hoti	autoi	kléronomēsousin	tēn	gēn
5 Μακάριοι	οἱ	πραεῖς	, Ὅτι	αὐτοὶ	κληρονομήσουσιν	τὴν	γῆν .
Blessed	the	meek	for	they	will inherit	the	earth
Adj-NMP	Art-NMP	Adj-NMP	Conj	PPro-NM3P	V-FIA-3P	Art-AFS	N-AFS

e. “**patience**” – *makrothymian* – patience, long-suffering, forbearing. Indicates self-restraint that will bear injury and insult without thoughtless retaliation.

- i. God is “patient” in Romans 2:4-5 – “do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God’s kindness is meant to lead you to repentance? 5But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God’s righteous judgment will be revealed.”

**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.”

430 [e]	240 [e]	2532 [e]	5483 [e]	1438 [e]	1437 [e]	5100 [e]	4314 [e]	5100 [e]
anechomenoi	allēlōn	kai	charizomenoi	heautois	ean	tis	pros	tina
13 ἀνεχόμενοι	ἀλλήλων	καὶ	χαριζόμενοι	ἑαυτοῖς .	ἐάν	τις	πρὸς	τινα
bearing with	each other	and	forgiving	each other	If	anyone	against	another
V-PPM/P-NMP	RecPro-GMP	Conj	V-PPM/P-NMP	RefPro-DM3P	Conj	IPro-NMS	Prep	IPro-AMS

2192 [e]	3437 [e]	2531 [e]	2532 [e]	3588 [e]	2962 [e]	5483 [e]	4771 [e]	3779 [e]	2532 [e]	4771 [e]
echē	momphēn	kathōs	kai	ho	Kyrios	echarisato	hymīn	houtōs	kai	hymeis
ἔχη	μομφήν	, καθὼς	καὶ	ὁ	Κύριος	ἔχαρίσατο	ὑμῖν	, οὕτως	καὶ	ὑμεῖς .
should have	a complaint	even as	also	the	Lord	has forgiven	you	so	also	you
V-PSA-3S	N-AFS	Adv	Conj	Art-NMS	N-NMS	V-AIM-3S	PPro-D2P	Adv	Conj	PPro-N2P

**3:14** – “And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.”

1909 [e]	3956 [e]	1161 [e]	3778 [e]	3588 [e]	26 [e]	3739 [e]	1510 [e]	4886 [e]	3588 [e]	5047 [e]
epi	pasin	de	toutois	tēn	agapēn	ho	estin	syndesmos	tēs	teleiotētos
14 ἐπὶ	πᾶσιν	δὲ	τούτοις	, τὴν	ἀγάπην	, ὅ	ἐστίν	σύνδεσμος	τῆς	τελειότητος .
Beyond	all	now	these	[put on] the	love	which	is	[the] bond	-	of perfect unity
Prep	Adj-DNP	Conj	DPro-DNP	Art-AFS	N-AFS	RelPro-NNS	V-PIA-3S	N-NMS	Art-GFS	N-GFS

## Outline of 3:15-17

- An imperative is provided in each verse
- Thankfulness is mentioned with each provision from Christ
- Each is focused on an sphere of the Christian experience on earth

### 3:15 – The Peace of Christ

1. Imperative – “let rule” – a command to let peace from Christ rule in all you Christians hearts
2. Thankfulness – “and be thankful”
3. Sphere of operation – in the body, the church, among believers

### 3:16 – The Word of Christ

1. Imperative – “let dwell” – a command to let the Word of Christ dwell in all you Christians
  - a. In wisdom
  - b. In teaching
  - c. In admonishing
2. Thankfulness – in grace sing to the God thanksgiving using psalms, hymns and spiritual songs
3. Sphere of operation – instruction, growth and insight of each of you believers

### 3:17 – The Name of the Lord Jesus

1. Imperative – implied is the command to “be thankful” (*kai eucharistoi ginesthe*, “and thankful be”) from verse 15
2. Thankfulness – for all you can say and do “in the name of the Lord Jesus” give thanks to God the Father
3. Sphere of operation – everything you go out and do in life (spoken or action)

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

	2532 [e]	3588 [e]	1515 [e]	3588 [e]	5547 [e]	1018 [e]	1722 [e]	3588 [e]	2588 [e]	4771 [e]	1519 [e]
	kai	hē	eirēnē	tou	Christou	brabeuetō	en	tais	kardiais	hymōn	eis
<b>15</b>	καὶ	ἡ	εἰρήνη	τοῦ	Χριστοῦ	βραβευέτω	ἐν	ταῖς	καρδίαις	ὑμῶν	, εἰς
	And	the	peace	-	from Christ	let rule	in	the	hearts	of you	to
	Conj	Art-NFS	N-NFS	Art-GMS	N-GMS	V-PMA-3S	Prep	Art-DFP	N-DFP	PPro-G2P	Prep

	3739 [e]	2532 [e]	2564 [e]	1722 [e]	1520 [e]	4983 [e]	2532 [e]	2170 [e]	1096 [e]
	hēn	kai	eklēthēte	en	heni	sōmati	kai	eucharistoi	ginesthe
	ἡν	καὶ	ἐκλήθητε	ἐν	ἐνὶ	σώματι	καὶ	εὐχάριστοι	γίνεσθε
	which	also	you were called	in	one	body	And	thankful	be
	RelPro-AFS	Conj	V-AIP-2P	Prep	Adj-DNS	N-DNS	Conj	Adj-NMP	V-PMM/P-2P

#### 1. “the peace of Christ”

- a. This picks up the concept of the Hebrew term shalom which is wholeness in your person and in relationships. It is more than absence of conflict. It is harmon with God’s Reality. You must know Truth for this to occur.
- b. John 14:27 – “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.”
- c. Ephesians 2:14 – “For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility”

- d. 2 Thes. 3:16 – “Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in every way. The Lord be with you all.”
2. “rule”
  - a. “rule” or *brabeuo*, means “to act as umpire”. It means literally “to act as arbiter in the games”
  - b. The shalom that comes from Christ is to be the umpire deciding your attitude in the games played among believers.
3. The focus on this verse is in the body of believers. For the one body of Christ to function in the temporal world among the redeemed with a fallen nature then peace must be the umpire making the final decisions.

**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.”

3588 [e]	3056 [e]	3588 [e]	5547 [e]	1774 [e]	1722 [e]	4771 [e]	4146 [e]	1722 [e]	3956 [e]	4678 [e]
Ho	logos	tou	Christou	enoikeitō	en	hymn	plousiōs	en	pasē	sophia
16 Ὁ	λόγος	τοῦ	Χριστοῦ	ἐνοικεῖτω	ἐν	ὑμῖν	πλουσίως	, ἐν	πάσῃ	σοφίᾳ
The	word	-	of Christ	let dwell	in	you	richly	in	all	wisdom
Art-NMS	N-NMS	Art-GMS	N-GMS	V-PMA-3S	Prep	PPro-D2P	Adv	Prep	Adj-DFS	N-DFS

1321 [e]	2532 [e]	3560 [e]	1438 [e]	5568 [e]	5215 [e]	5603 [e]	4152 [e]
didaskontes	kai	nouthetountes	heautous	psalmois	hymnois	ōdais	pneumatikais
διδάσκοντες	καὶ	νουθετοῦντες	ἑαυτοὺς	ψαλμοῖς	, ὕμνοις	, ᾠδαῖς	πνευματικαῖς
teaching	and	admonishing	each other	in psalms	hymns	[and] songs	spiritual
V-PPA-NMP	Conj	V-PPA-NMP	RefPro-AM3P	N-DMP	N-DMP	N-DFP	Adj-DFP

1722 [e]	3588 [e]	5485 [e]	103 [e]	1722 [e]	3588 [e]	2588 [e]	4771 [e]	3588 [e]	2316 [e]
en	tē	chariti	adontes	en	tais	kardiais	hymōn	tō	Theō
ἐν	τῇ	χάριτι	ᾄδοντες	, ἐν	ταῖς	καρδίαις	ὑμῶν	, τῷ	Θεῷ
with	-	grace	singing	in	the	hearts	of you	to	God
Prep	Art-DFS	N-DFS	V-PPA-NMP	Prep	Art-DFP	N-DFP	PPro-G2P	Art-DMS	N-DMS

1. To explain the phrase “word of Christ”, and if it refers to the message about Christ or the message from Christ, and if it refers to the words spoken by Christ on earth or the words revealed to prophets and apostles, we can gain insight from a similar verse at the same point in the letter to the Ephesians:

“Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. 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.” – Ephesians 5:15-21

It might appear that “word of Christ” and “Spirit” are the same. Knowing the Word of Christ is to “be filled with the Spirit” and vice versa.

2. “let dwell”, *enoikeo*, means “to dwell in” and “I am settled and stationary in”. It is a word used to express dwelling in a home or to refer to one’s personal residence. It is a state of dwelling.

**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.”

2532 [e]	3956 [e]	3739 [e]	5101 [e]	1437 [e]	4160 [e]	1722 [e]	3056 [e]	2228 [e]	1722 [e]	2041 [e]	3956 [e]		
kai	pan	ho	ti	ean	poiēte	en	logō	ē	en	ergō	panta		
17	καὶ	πάν	, ὅ	τι	ἐὰν	ποιή	τε	ἐν	λόγῳ	ἢ	ἐν	ἔργῳ	, πάντα
	And	everything	which	what	if	you might do	in	word	or	in	deed	all	
	Conj	Adj-ANS	RelPro-ANS	IPro-ANS	Conj	V-PSA-2P	Prep	N-DMS	Conj	Prep	N-DNS	Adj-ANP	

1722 [e]	3686 [e]	2962 [e]	2424 [e]	2168 [e]	3588 [e]	2316 [e]	3962 [e]	1223 [e]	846 [e]
en	onomati	Kyriou	Iēsou	eucharistountes	tō	Theō	Patri	di'	autou
ἐν	ὀνόματι	Κυρίου	Ἰησοῦ	, εὐχαριστοῦντες	τῷ	Θεῷ	Πατρὶ	δι'	αὐτοῦ .
in	[the] name	of [the] Lord	Jesus	giving thanks	-	to God	[the] Father	through	Him
Prep	N-DNS	N-GMS	N-GMS	V-PPA-NMP	Art-DMS	N-DMS	N-DMS	Prep	PPro-GM3S

The three step process of the Christian life is clear:

1. Being among the members of the body of Christ peacefully in order to be strengthened and prepared.
2. Be equip with the Truth, the Word of Christ, so that each believer is filled with the Spirit empowered to apply wisdom and knowledge
3. Go into your life and into the world doing and saying everything in the Name of the Lord Jesus.