

## STUDY GUIDE

**NEW VISION**  
**STUCK**  
**WEEK 2: TEACH ONE ANOTHER**  
**COLOSSIANS 3:12-17**  
08/14/2016



### MAIN POINT

We must seek the wisdom that is forged in the fires of committed relationships.

### INTRODUCE

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

**Have you ever dealt with a problem that you couldn't fix yourself so you had to turn to outside help? Explain.**

**What is the benefit of learning from the wisdom of others? How does the church put us in a position to learn from others?**

Some problems are too big for us to solve on our own. This is one reason we need other people. The beauty of the church is that God has not designed for us to live our lives alone. The Bible knows nothing of a loner Christian. God has brought together a group of people with a range of different experiences and gifts, and in that diversity there is wisdom. When we live with other Christians in committed relationships, we benefit from each other's wisdom and experience.

### READ AND REFLECT

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

**HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ COLOSSIANS 3:12-14.**

**Based on these verses, what attributes should characterize a follower of Christ? What attitudes should we display toward one another?**

**How are these traits different from the ones mentioned in verses 5-8 of this chapter? How does the gospel redefine our community?**

The gospel redefines our relationships. New people in Christ are to put on the new virtues of Christ. Paul addressed them with three descriptive terms. They are God's chosen ones. Through faith in Christ, they took their place among God's people. Believers are holy—set aside for God's service and for moral purity. They are loved, and they abide in that love. Paul's descriptive terms offered strong motivation for believers to incorporate the qualities into their lives and community.

**How do each of these qualities have individual as well as corporate applications? Give an example of each.**

**Paul used the analogy of putting on clothes to explain the gospel transformation that happens to a Christian. What is the last garment that covers everything else? Why is this so important?**

**All that Paul describes here leads to the conclusion that Christians are meant to grow and thrive in relationships with other Christians. How would you respond to a believer who felt they didn't need other believers?**

Paul listed five attributes of believers as new people in Christ: heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. These traits are found in most relationships but take a different importance in Christian relationships. We give and receive these when we live with other believers. Our commitment to live this way is not based on our desires, but the gospel transforms our relationships from the inside out. Above all, Christian communities are ones of love (John 13:34-35). Paul insisted that believers are to put on love—a determined good will that seeks the other's best interest. Such persistent good will is the perfect bond of unity.

**HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ COLOSSIANS 3:15-17.**

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**What does it mean to let the peace of Christ rule in your heart?**

**When have you experienced the peace of Christ?**

**What does it mean that you have been called to this peace? If we don't control our hearts, what controls them?**

**What wisdom do we miss if we fail to meet with other people?**

**What wisdom have you gained from being taught or admonished by another believer that you would have missed if you did not have that relationship?**

Christ called believers to His peace, which is best understood as spiritual wholeness under His lordship. The phrase "in one body" implies believers' oneness under Christ's rule as the head of His body, the church. Believers allow Christ's gift of spiritual health to exercise control, which causes us to be thankful. Paul admonished believers to let the message (literally, "word") about the Messiah dwell richly among them. To help the Colossians understand, Paul pointed to three ongoing activities that should guide our relationships with one another: teaching, admonishing, and singing.

**Verse 17 seems to be Paul's conclusion. What does it mean to do something "in the name of" Jesus?**

**What does it look like when you commit your whole life to doing everything in word and deed in the name of Jesus? How do our committed relationships with one another motivate us to live this way?**

Paul urged believers to do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus. "Name" is a synonym for person. Thus, the phrase is the same as "in Christ"—in close relationship with Him. The words "in the name of" can mean "in the authority or power of." Jesus supplies power for Christian living. The title "the Lord Jesus" stressed that believers were to represent their Savior and Master well in their daily lives. Our commitment to Christ fuels our commitment to one another.

## **APPLY**

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

**What attitudes of the heart should we continue to cultivate in order to remain teachable?**

**What is one specific thing you have learned from another follower of Christ with whom you regularly share life?  
What do you hope to learn in the future?**

**All Christians are called to teach one another as well as those outside the faith the truth of the gospel. How can we teach what we learn in community to people outside the community of faith?**

## **PRAY**

Praise God for the wisdom of heaven that is uniquely revealed in our relationships with each other. Ask that God would strengthen our bonds and lead us into greater depths in our relationship with Christ and one another.

## **COMMENTARY**

### **COLOSSIANS 3:12-17**

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3:12. After commanding believers to “put away” worldly behaviors, Paul offered a series of positive commands to put on or to “clothe yourselves” (Rm 13:14) with behavior fitted for God’s people. The adjectives chosen (Isa 43:20; 65:9; Rm 8:33; 2Tim 2:10; Titus 1:1; 1Pe 1:1; 2:4,6,9), holy (Mk 1:24; Lk 4:34; Jn 6:69; 1Pe 2:9), and loved (Mt 3:17; Eph 1:6; 1Th 1:4; 2Th 2:13) were all applied to Israel, Jesus, and the church. The five virtues are just the opposite of the vices listed in verses 5 and 8.

3:13. The words accepting (cp. Rm 15:7; Eph 4:2) and forgiving (cp. Eph 4:32) express the habitual manner in which believers exhibit the stated virtues. Both verbs pertain to interpersonal relationships in the body of Christ. Just as the Lord has forgiven echoes Jesus’ injunction to forgive because believers are forgiven (Mt 6:12,14-15; 18:23-35; Lk 7:42).

3:14 .The imagery here suggests that the final and most important new article of clothing for God’s people is love, the perfect bond of unity, that binds believers together in complete oneness (Eph 4:3).

3:15. The peace brought by Christ should control believers’ hearts (Rm 8:6; 15:13; 2Co 13:11; Gal 5:22; Eph 2:14; Php 4:7; 2Th 3:16). Be thankful harks back to 1:3,12; 2:7 (cp. 3:17; 4:2).

3:16. The words teaching and admonishing express the means of how the gospel is to dwell among believers. Wisdom... singing, and gratitude characterize the manner of this teaching and admonishing.