



## PART 9: CLOTHED IN VIRTUE

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### Sermon Notes

**Text: Colossians 3:12-17**

#### Intro:

Being the image of God is like being an angled mirror. The mirror reflects the glory of God to the world around it. Rejecting that vocation is like a microphone creating feedback.

In chapter 3, Paul begins to practically display what new life as an image bearer looks like. v. 1-11 showed us what it doesn't look like. v. 12-17 show us what it can look like.

#### v. 12

Our identity is a gift from God; not created by our own efforts

Chosen, holy & dearly loved are identifying marks of Jesus, which now apply to those who are "in Christ."

Those who take on the identity of Christ now clothe themselves with the virtues of Christ.

#### v. 13

Bearing with each other means we restrain our natural reaction toward odd or difficult people.

Our goal is not to make people into our image; our goal is to walk with people as God shapes them into the image of his son.

#### v. 15, 16

Love, peace and thankfulness reinforce each other, and serve must be at the heart of the Christian community.

#### v. 17

You can act in the name of Jesus at any moment.

Acting in someone's name means...

- i. Representing them
- ii. Being empowered by their authority

#### Conclusion:

## Life Group Discussion

### Warm up:

1. Do you like having new clothes? How do new clothes make you feel? What does the metaphor of clothing have to do with Christian virtue?

### Study & Discussion:

1. Read 1 Peter 2:9-10, and compare it with Colossians 3:12. What do these passages say about our identity? What else does the Bible say about our identity?
  - One preacher said, “When you know who you are, you’ll know what to do.” What do you think he meant by that statement? How does a Christian’s identity inform their actions?
2. Read the parable of the unmerciful servant (Matthew 18:23-35). Paul likely had this parable in mind when he wrote Colossians 3:13. What does this teach us about forgiveness? Why is forgiveness so important within the church? What are the consequences of unforgiveness (spiritual & relational)?
3. Read v. 15 & 16. What is the role of music within the church? Why is it sometimes controversial? What’s your position? How do we let the “peace of Christ” rule in this issue?

### Application:

1. Speaking or acting in someone’s name (v. 17) means being their representative. How will you represent Jesus this week with your words and actions? At work? With your family? While you drive (tough one!)?

### Prayer:

1. Pray for peace to rule the church.
2. Other Requests
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