

LIVING THE CHRISTLIFE  
WAYNE BARRETT  
HILLTOP LAKES CHAPEL  
SEPTEMBER 2, 2020

**Colossians 3:12-20**  
**Our New Life in Christ**

<sup>12</sup> Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, <sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. <sup>15</sup> And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.

<sup>16</sup> 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. <sup>17</sup> 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. <sup>18</sup> Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. <sup>19</sup> Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them. <sup>20</sup> Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.

—Colossians 3:12-20 (ESV)

vv 12-13 – Put on then, as God's chosen ones [elect]...

Knowing who we are, what God has done for us, should inspire us in our living

Chosen by God

Holy – belonging exclusively to Him and “having been loved”

We have a strong role in “putting on” the new life, even though it is a gift of God

Compassionate hearts...

kindness, humility, meekness, and patience...

These qualities should characterize a Christian—men and women

A self-check can be useful.

bearing with one another

We would say “putting up with”(!) one another

And if one has a complaint...

Meaning, a *legitimate* complaint—forgive. If there was nothing to forgive, “forgiveness” would have no meaning.

As the Lord has forgiven you...

A consistent teaching of Scripture

For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.—

Matthew 6:14-15

vv 14-15 – Above all these, put on love...

All of these things are manifestations of agape-love

Which is the bond of perfection/completeness

Nothing else will serve as this bond, least of all the suppression of healthy differences, or voting, or policies...

“And the peace of Christ rule...” – it is an active, imperative verb

This is mainly referencing peace among and between one another in the church

We are called to this “in one body,” which is the body of Christ. Is this our concept?

“And be thankful.” This should always characterize the Christian. An “ungrateful Christian” is an oxymoron.

*(New paragraph could begin here—the Greek has no punctuation.)*

v 16 – The word of Christ dwell in you richly...

This is another present imperative verb

What follows is connected to the word of Christ so dwelling in us!

More lit. “In all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms, in hymns, in spiritual songs...”

The Bible has much to say, both by precept and example, about church music.

It is not all just “up to us”!

Paul was recognizing three types of vocal music that were typical for congregations then, and still are typical for many congregations: psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs

Here, the purposes Paul highlights for church music are *teaching* and *admonishing*

Throughout the ages, church music has been a great conveyor of theology and applied theology

The praise and worship of God could hardly be overemphasized in importance. But when we gather as a congregation, we also do other things, such as teaching and admonishing *one another*. At its best, church music should encompass all of these things.

“with grace [*charis*], singing in your hearts to God.”

Love, joy, grace should characterize our singing

Paul could here also be thinking of music of praise, prayer, and worship (which is *unto the Lord*) as opposed to teaching and admonishing *one another*, just mentioned

v 17 – And whatever you do...

The apostle’s great, summative statement about Christian living, connected to what has been said and what will continue to be said...

All of our living is to be done “in the name of the Lord Jesus”—meaning done as his people, under his authority, and done in service to him

“giving thanks to God the Father through Him.” – always, always, always giving thanks!

v 18 – “Wives, be submitted to the husbands...”

This is not introducing a new topic.

Paul is continuing to describe the beauty of the new life in Christ. He moves away from more Christian-community-related matters to home-related applications.

These beautiful instructions for the Christian home have been so abused, so attacked, so mischaracterized that it is hard to teach about them without spending hours on what Paul did not mean! But for his study, there is limited time.

If “submission” is demeaning then Jesus is demeaned, because He submits to the will of the Father.

But He is not demeaned! He is fully God and fully man—He is King of kings and Lord of lords—and He is the Only-Begotten Son of God.

A Christian marriage is a unity in which the husband and wife bless each other, help each other, learn from each other, advise each other, and serve each other.

Any group has to have a leader—which is not the same as a dictator—especially for decisions where there may not be unanimity. We see the importance of leadership in all human endeavor.

Much more could be said...

“Husbands love the wives, and do not be embittered toward them.”

“Love” is an active, imperative verb. It is describing a pro-active, caring, commitment.

“do not be embittered” – we could say “don’t get aggravated” or even more serious, harbored ill-feelings

Husbands, love the wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.—Ephesians 5:25

“Children, obey the parents in all things...”

For this is pleasing in the Lord.

Paul provides, in a few sentences, a description of a godly, joyful Christian marriage. He describes God’s plans and standards—which have not been improved upon. Today, this would describe the minority of households in our country—perhaps even in the church itself. And we are to work with one another in love and compassion. (Jesus himself, at some point, was being raised by a single mother, a widow—assuming, as we must, that Joseph had passed away before Jesus’ earthly ministry.) We are to care for the “widows and orphans,” and for all those who are bruised and struggling.

Recognizing God’s plan for the marriage and the family informs us in knowing how to help struggling families of all types. And the church must always continue to teach and promote the plan of God for people and their homes.