

Above All, Love
Colossians 3:14-17

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I. The perfect glue. Colossians 3:14

Love is the most important virtue within the Christian walk and Paul describes it as the _____ that holds all the others together.

- If we want to be **perfect** before the Lord, we need a **perfect** substitute who **loves** perfectly, to take our place, pay our sin debt, and then teach us how to _____. **1 Corinthians 13:4-8**

Salvation through Christ naturally leads to the _____ of becoming more like Jesus, moment by moment. He is the only One who embodies **perfect love**.

II. What rules your heart? Colossians 3:15

When we live in constant fear, worry or anxiety, it reveals to us that our minds are _____ on something other than Jesus. **Philippians 4:6-7**

- We receive _____ when our thoughts and focus are on God!

Peace should be a _____ shown within the lives of Christ followers, because we know no matter how things appear, we win in the end because of whom we have believed.

- Paul says, "**Be thankful**". When a believer lives a Spirit filled life; worship, joy, and thankfulness are _____ byproducts.

III. Allow the Word to camp in you. Colossians 3:16

Dwell means to _____ at _____, like when the Holy Spirit comes to live in you; the Bible dwells in believers as a good influence.

- The emphasis in **Hebrews 4:12** is on the **power** of the Word to be a "**discerner**" and penetrate and _____ the heart of man.

The Word of God is a seed; once planted in your heart by the _____ of the Holy Spirit, it can allow the fruit of Christ in you.

- "**Our singing must be with grace. This does not mean "singing in a gracious way," but singing because we have God's grace in our _____.**" (Wiersbe)

IV. Everything we do should be done for Jesus. Colossians 3:17

Since we have _____ our lives to Christ, whatever we do, we should do for the glory of God in the name of Jesus. **1 Corinthians 10:31**

Small Group Discussion

Looking back at your notes from this week's sermon, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

1. *What qualities does God want us to have in our spiritual wardrobes, and what does each mean? How can we wear each quality?*
2. *Why is love "the bond of perfection"?*
Matthew 5:48, 1 Corinthians 13:4-8, Luke 6:27-36
3. Discuss how being thankful pulls us into God's will.
1 Thessalonians 5:18, Ephesians 4:17-18
4. Read **Luke 17:12-19**. Discuss the attributes about thankfulness given within this passage.
5. *How do we let Christ's peace rule in our hearts? What are the evidences of letting Christ's peace rule in our hearts?*
Philippians 4:6-9, Isaiah 26:3, John 14:27, John 16:33
6. *How can we tell that Christ's word is dwelling in us?*
Hebrews 4:11-13, Psalm 139:23-24
7. Read **Colossians 3:17**. *How can we make sure that everything we do is done for Jesus?*
1 Corinthians 10:31, Mark 12:28-31
8. *How can wearing the wardrobe described in this passage affect the way you live? Which of the spiritual garments listed here do you need to start wearing or wear more often? How will you do so this week?*
9. Discuss the Practical Application of this sermon.

(Some questions from Warren Wiersbe)