

Col 3:12-17 – Therefore, as the elect of God, holy & beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; 13 bearing with one another, & forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. 14 But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. 15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; & be thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching & admonishing one another in psalms & hymns & spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. 17 And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

1. Explain the phrase “the elect of God” used in verse 12.

“Therefore” – Because we are to have “put off...the old man with his deeds” (the carnal nature), we are to conduct ourselves “as the elect of God”.

ELECT – eklektos: “picked out, chosen” (ek, “from,” lego, “to gather, pick out”).

1) **Christ**: the “chosen” of God, as the Messiah (**Luke 23:35**)

2) **Angels**: as “chosen” to be of especially high rank (**1 Tim 5:21**)

3) **Christians** (Jews or Gentiles): **Matt 24:22, 24, 31**; Mark 13:20, 22, 27; Luke 18:7; Rom 8:33; Col 3:12; 2 Tim 2:10; Titus 1:1; **As a spiritual race**: **1 Peter 1:1**; 2:9; “**Chosen**”: **Matt 20:16**; 22:14 & Rev 17:14; **Individual** believers: **Rom 16:13**; 2 John 1,13.

Believers were “chosen” “before the foundation of the world” (cf. “before times eternal,” **2 Tim 1:9**), in Christ, **Eph 1:4**, to adoption, **Eph 1:5**; good works, **2:10**; conformity to Christ, **Rom 8:29**; to salvation from the delusions of the Antichrist & the doom of the deluded, **2 Thess 2:13**; eternal glory, **Rom 9:23**.

The source of their “election” is God’s grace, not human will, **Eph 1:4, 5**; Rom 9:11; 11:5. They are given by God the Father to Christ as the fruit of His death, all being foreknown & foreseen by God, **John 17:6** & Rom 8:29. While Christ’s death was sufficient for all men, & is effective in the case of the “elect,” yet men are treated as responsible, being capable of the will & power to choose. (Vine’s)

Election – Predestination – Foreordination: *Best thought of as a corporate, communal, a shared privilege of a group or community (the church)*. The person who is one of the elect of God has not been chosen by some arbitrary (random, subjective) means to receive salvation.

2. Write a short statement relative to the character of God's elect (3:12-14)?

a. Holy –

Refers to persons whose services God employs; set apart for God, to be exclusively his (**Luke 2:23**). In a moral sense, pure, sinless, upright, holy (**1 Peter 1:16**). (Thayer)

b. Beloved –

To have a preference for
To wish well to
To regard the welfare of
To take pleasure in
To prize it above others
To be unwilling to abandon it or do without it (Thayer)

c. Tender mercies (bowels of mercies) –

Bowels:

Literally the intestines (the heart, lungs, liver, etc. properly: Acts 1:18);

Figuratively the heart (tender mercies, affections, etc. **1 John 3:17**)

Mercies:

Compassion, pity, mercy (**Col 3:12**) (Thayer)

d. Kindness –

1. Moral goodness, integrity (**Rom 3:12**)
2. Benevolence, kindness (**Rom 2:4**) (Thayer)

e. Humility –

Having a humble opinion of oneself; a deep sense of one's (moral) littleness; modesty, humility, lowliness of mind (**Acts 20:19**). (Thayer)

f. Meekness –

Gentleness, mildness of temperament (Thayer)

g. Longsuffering –

1. (Through trial) – Patience, endurance, constancy, steadfastness, perseverance (**Col 1:11**)

2. (Dealings with people) – Patience, forbearance, long-suffering, slowness in avenging wrongs (**Rom 2:4**). (Thayer)

h. Bearing with one another –

Forbearing:

To hold oneself up against, i.e. (figuratively) put up with. **KJV** – bear with, endure, forbear, suffer. (Strong)

i. Forgiving one another –

To do something pleasant or agreeable (to one), to do a favor to, gratify

To show oneself gracious, kind, benevolent (**Gal 3:18**); To grant forgiveness, to pardon (**2 Cor 2:7**); To give graciously, give freely, bestow (**Luke 7:21**).

j. Love –

1. It denotes affection, good-will, benevolence (**John 15:13; Rom 13:10; 1 John 4:18**).

- a. Used of the love of men toward men;
- b. Used of the love of men toward God:
- c. Used of the love of God toward men:
- d. Used of the love of God toward Christ:
- e. Used of the love of Christ toward men: (Thayer)

3. What is meant by “love...is the bond of perfection” (3:14)?

Love will unite or bond all the other virtues & make them complete.

Where love is lacking, though some virtues may be present, the relationship between Christians is hypocritical.

4. What is the “peace of God” (3:15)?

It is the “peace” that comes from God

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 heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

Phil 4:6-7 – Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer & supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; 7 & *the peace of God*, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts & minds through Christ Jesus.

Peace is the tranquil state of a soul assured of its salvation through Christ, & so fearing nothing from God & content with its earthly lot (**Rom 8:6**). (Thayer)

a. How does one allow it to “rule” in his heart?

Rule:

1. to be an umpire
2. to decide, determine
3. to direct, control, rule (**Col 3:15**). (Thayer)

In the Philippian letter Paul mentioned “prayer” & “meditation” (**Phil 4:6, 8-9**).

b. What does the “peace of God” have to do with being “called in one body”?

Eph 2:14-18 – For *He Himself is our peace, who has made both one*, & has broken down the middle wall of separation, 15 *having abolished in His flesh the enmity*, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, *so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace*, 16 & that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity.

The peace of God is experienced in the one body; Jesus united all by His death.

5. Discuss the following as related to verse 16:

a. How does one allow the “word of Christ” dwell in him?

Just like the “peace of God”, the “word of Christ” [logos: His thoughts, teaching & motives] also must “rule” [direct, control] the heart.

His word must be planted into the heart & we must diligently think on it:

Jas 1:21 – Therefore lay aside all filthiness & overflow of wickedness, & *receive with meekness the implanted word*, which is able to save your souls.

1 Tim 4:15 – *Meditate on these things*; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all.

2 Tim 2:15 – *Be diligent* to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, *rightly dividing the word of truth*.

b. In what manner is the “word of Christ” to dwell in us?

“Richly” – abundantly

“In all wisdom” – practical skill. (Some expositors apply this phrase to the next word “teaching” as “in all wisdom teaching”).

c. What type of songs are produced & sung by those in whom the “word of Christ” dwells?

“Psalms” – a sacred ode or verse (accompanied w/the voice)

“Hymns” – a religious ode for celebration

“Spiritual songs” – songs with a spiritual theme

d. What takes place in singing?

“Teaching” – to cause learning

“Admonishing one another” – to caution or reprove gently

e. Explain “singing with grace in your hearts”

“Singing with grace in your hearts” – gratitude

- f. Although this singing teaches & admonishes saints, to whom are we ultimately singing?

“To the Lord” – gratitude that is directed to Christ

6. Give your best insight into verse 17, both as it relates to the context & also as it relates to the church in general.

The primary context is dealing with each Christian’s responsibility to “put off” the old man & to “put on” the new man, & in doing so, to follow the direction of the Lord’s teaching & life example.

We sometimes over look the individual application of this verse in order to emphasize the fact that the lawful work, worship & organization of the church is clearly outlined in the New Testament.

“And whatever you do in word” – implies teaching or doctrine

“Or in deed” – a work or practice

“Do all in the name of the Lord Jesus” – by the authority.

“Giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”

Our personal interests are NOT the driving force behind true worship

Examples of “in the name of Jesus Christ ([Acts 2:38](#); [8:16](#); [10:48](#); [19:3-5](#)).

The AUTHORITY behind the command to be baptized was not Peter’s, Phillip’s, Paul’s, or the church’s, but the Lord’s. Paul said “WHATEVER you do (not just baptism)...do all in the name of the Lord Jesus”.