

“The Believers Character”
Colossians 3:12-17
12/10/23
Message 8

Introduction

- Title Of The Message: “The Believers Character”
- **Illustration – What Marks our LIVES**
 - **What is the Identifying mark of a Hindu?**
 - A Tilak on the forehead
 - **What is the Identifying mark of a Sikh religion**
 - Turban worn on the head
 - **What is the Identifying mark of a pious Jew?**
 - Phylactery on forehead
 - **What is the Identifying mark of a Mormon?**
 - Bike, White Shirt, Tie, Name badge “elder”
 - **What is the Identifying mark of a JW?**
 - Watch Tower magazine
 - **What is the Identifying mark of a follower of antichrist in tribulation**
 - Mark on forehead
 - **What is the Identifying mark of the 144,000?**
 - A Seal on forehead (Rev.7:3)
 - **What SHOULD BE the Identifying mark of a Christian?**

- Wears a Cross?
- Wears a T-Shirt?
- Bumper Sticker?
- NO
- The Identifying mark of a Genuine Believer?
 - LOVE

- **The Importance of today Text - Message**

- **I need This message to be Taught over and Over again in my life**
 - As I was studying this again
 - Hit me I personally need to have this messaged preached until I get it...
 - Illustration
 - Pastor who preached the same message many times

- **Review - Paul writing to the Colossians**

- **Paul's Warning**
 - About False Teaching – Bad Ideas
- **The Answers to these False Teachers – Bad Ideas**
 - POINTING To Jesus
 - The
 - Supremacy & Sufficiency of Christ

- The
 - Preeminence of Christ
- **Paul Also Instructs them - what it means to be IN CHRIST**

- **COMPLETE IN CHRIST**

Colossians 2:9–10 (NKJV)

9 *For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily;*
10 *and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.*

- Be Circumcised In Heart vs. 9-12
- Be Complete In Christ vs. 13-15
- Be Free From Man Made Laws vs. 16-17
- Be Careful vs. 18-19
- Be FREE In CHRIST vs. 20-23
- **RAISED WITH CHRIST (Last Week)**
 - This Doctrine
 - Doctrine Demands DUTY
 - Creed Determines Conduct
 - Facts Demand Acts.
 - It Affects Our Minds vs. 1-4
 - Set & Seek Things Above
 - It Affects Our Bodies vs. 5-7
 - PUT to DEATH – MORTIFY the things of the Body
 - PUT OFF the OLD PERSON
 - Sexual Sins

- It Affects Our Attitudes vs. 8-11
 - PUT of the OLD PERSON
 - Anger, Wrath, Malice, Blasphemy, Filthy Language, Lying
 - BE RENEWED in KNOWLEDGE of Christ

• **Now this morning we will look at 3 POWERFUL TRUTHS in the Believers Character**

- Our Position v. 12a-13
- Our Principles vs. 12b-14
- Our Process vs. 15-17

Our Position vs. 12a & 13

• **First: Elect v. 12a**

Colossians 3:12 (NKJV)

12 Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering;

- **1st Therefore**
 - Always Ask what's it – “Therefore”
 - In Light of the Fact that we are
 - COMPLETE in CHRIST
 - RAISED With CHRIST
 - THEREFORE - Put Off the OLD person
 - Now hear these words – You ELECT, HOLY, & BELOVED of God
- **2nd Elect**

- **The Word Elect –**

- Greek: Eklektos –
- Means: Picked Out, Chosen
- The word Elect means “Chosen of God.”

- **What does this mean?**

- Simple – God Chose US

Ephesians 1:4 (NKJV)

4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,

- Illustration

- Grade School – Chose players for a pick-up game of baseball

- The Confusion

- 1st But I thought I chose God
- 2nd If He chose me than I didn't have a chose
- 3rd That God has chosen some BUT not Others

- The Answer

- 1st But I thought I chose God
 - You did Chose HIM
 - John 3:16 - Who So Ever
 - BUT God is the one who chose you first

- God is the initiator – He ran you down with His LOVE
- Don't attempt to explain this away – Just enjoy it
- 2nd If He chose me than I didn't have a chose
 - Yes you did – we see all throughout the Bible God giving man a choice
- 3rd That God has chosen some BUT not Others (Limited Atonement)
 - God is Running DOWN the WHOLE world with His LOVE
 - Yet many in the World still resist HIM
 - Limited Atonement – Is simple WRONG
- Why did He choose you?
 - Because of HIS GRACE

Deuteronomy 7:7–8 (NKJV)

7 The LORD did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples;
8 but because the LORD loves you, and because He would keep the oath which He swore to your fathers, the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you from the house of bondage, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

Ephesians 2:8–10 (NKJV)

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,
9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.
10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

- Be Okay with the Mystires of God

- Somehow this all works out with
- He Chose YOU
- Yet Who So Ever – You Chose Him

Isaiah 55:8–9 (NKJV)

8 “For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,” says the LORD.

9 “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.

• **Second: HOLY v. 12b**

Colossians 3:12 (NKJV)

12 Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering;

- **1st The Word – HOLY**
 - Greek: Hagios
 - Means
 - Holy, A quality of God, separated, pure & clean
 - This word speaks of God’s Purity
 - How different He is from us.
- **2nd God IS HOLY**
 - This is one of the characteristics of God.
 - Night and day the angels in heaven are declaring

Isaiah 6:3 (NKJV)

3 And one cried to another and said: “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; The whole earth is full of His glory!”

Revelation 4:8 (NKJV)

8 The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying: "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!"

- God is HOLY – PURE, RIGHTEOUS, SEPARATE

- **3rd We are Called to be HOLY**

1 Peter 1:15–16 (NKJV)

15 but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, **16** because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy."

- **1st What Does NOT MEAN to be HOLY?**

- 1st Grumpy – Pious – Serious

- Now a lot of people have the wrong idea about the Word Holy
- Many associate it with some kind of "Grimness"
- They think of "holy" people as those who look as if they have sucked a Lemon...

- 2nd Legalism –

- Seeking to be Holy without God
- Self – Righteous
- A lot of DO's and DON'T'S

- **2nd What it Does MEAN – 2 Things**

- 1st Wholeness

- Root word for our English word Holiness
 - The word "Wholeness."

- That is a Good Description – Wholeness = Being Complete
- God is
 - Complete
 - Perfect
 - There is no blemish in God
 - He lives in harmony with Himself
 - He is a beautiful
 - He is filled with joy and love and peace.
 - He lives in wholeness.
- Holiness for us
 - We are WHOLE
 - At Peace
 - We have Well Being
 - Joy
 - Made Whole in Christ
- 2nd It Means - To Be Different
 - Again The word for holy is hagios
 - Root meaning is Set Apart
 - The Christian is hagios in
 - Our thinking is different
 - Our Passions & Pursuits are different
 - Our PRIORITIES are different
 - Those differences are going to be measured in the way that He lives His life

1 Corinthians 6:19–20 (NKJV)

19 *Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?*

20 For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

- **Third: Beloved v. 12c**

Colossians 3:12 (NKJV)

12 Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and **beloved**, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering;

- **1st The Word Beloved –**

- Greek: Agapao
- Means:
 - God's special kind of love.
 - This word says that WE are loved by God.

- **2nd Lesson**

- LOVED BY GOD –
 - Pause on that for a minute

- **Fourth: Forgiven v. 13**

Colossians 3:13 (NKJV)

13 bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even **as Christ forgave you**, so you also must do.

- **1st FORGIVEN**

- How many sins did God forgive?

Colossians 2:13 (NKJV)

13 And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, **having forgiven you all trespasses**,

- How is the holy God able to forgive us guilty sinners?

- Because of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross.
- **God's forgiveness is complete and final**
 - It is not conditional or partial.

Psalm 103:12 (NKJV)

12 *As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us.*

Our Principles vs. 12b-14

• **First: Put ON - Tender Mercies v. 12d**

Colossians 3:12 (NKJV)

12 *Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, **put on** tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering;*

- **1st PUT ON**
 - Putting On – Like putting on a shirt
 - But there is a lot more to this Word - PUT ON
 - Is a present imperative
 - A COMMAND
 - Put them on and keep putting them on
 - Wuest; “Put on” is *endunō* (ἐνδύω),
 - To envelope in, clothe with.
 - Thayer, commenting on the use of this verb in 3:10 (put on the new man), defines it as follows: “to become so possessed of the mind of Christ as in thought, feeling, and action to resemble Him and, as it were, reproduce the life He lived.”

- *The verb in 3:12 is imperative in mode. This is a command to be obeyed. It is aorist in tense, which means that the command must be obeyed at once.*

- **2nd Tender Mercy**

Colossians 3:12 (NKJV)

12 Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on **tender mercies**, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering;

- Tender –
 - Greek: Splagchnon
 - Means: Bowels, intestines; regarded by the Hebrews as the seat of the more tender affections such as kindness or compassion; the “heart”
 - The Greek uses the term bowels of compassion because the Greek people located the deeper emotions in the intestinal area
 - While we locate them in the heart
- Mercies –
 - Greek: Oiktirmos
 - Means: Compassion, pity, mercy; it’s not the deeds that are done with mercy, but the deep inner feeling of compassion on the suffering of another.
- NOTE
 - All these attributes are Seen in God Towards US
 - You find that this is something that God has for us

Romans 12:1 (NKJV)

*1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, **by the mercies of God**, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.*

○ **3rd Lesson**

- God has GIVEN us Tender Mercy –
 - We must do the same
 - As believers, we need to display tender feelings of compassion toward one another
- This is not something that we turn on and off, like the TV set.
 - It is a constant attitude of heart that makes us easy to live with.

• **Second: Put ON - Kindness v. 12e**

Colossians 3:12 (NKJV)

12 *Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, **kindness**, humility, meekness, longsuffering;*

○ **1st The Word Kindness –**

- Greek: Chrestotes
- Means: Moral Goodness, Integrity
- Speaks of the unselfish spirit of doing for others.
 - It is an attitude of affection or goodwill.

○ **2nd Lesson**

- Doing GOOD for OTHERS
- Doing RIGHT for others
- What is needed to help

- Ephesians points to kindness and forgiveness

Ephesians 4:32 (NKJV)

32 *And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.*

- Forgiving each other is a way to show kindness

• **Third: Put ON – Humility v. 12f**

Colossians 3:12 (NKJV)

12 *Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering;*

○ **1st The Word Humility –**

- Greek: Tapeinophrosynē
- Means: Humility, humbleness, modesty
- Humility is an awareness and acceptance of our fallenness and depravity
- This emphasizes not “self - Esteem” but “Others Esteem”.

○ **2nd Sadly - PRIDE marks our lives**

- In Greek culture
 - humility was thought of as a vice, to be practiced only by slaves
 - *John Wesley, observed that “neither the Roman nor the Greeks had a word for humility. The very concept was so foreign and abhorrent to their way of thinking that they had no term to describe it.”*
- PRIDE is what is in charge of our world today
 - This is the case in our world today!

- I am going to get you before you get me, a sign of weakness, in the world!
- It is not cool to think of oneself as less than another, we are to boast in our accomplishments!
- We are to think that we are the greatest and that there is none better, and we call it Self - Esteem!
- God Says
 - Humility must mark our lives
 - Lord MAKE us HUMBLE
- **3rd Lesson**
 - **God Demonstrated humility (*Philippians 2:1–11*)**
 - God Requires it!
 - *Thomas A Kempis, The Imitation of Christ, “If you wish to learn and appreciate something worthwhile, then love to be unknown and considered as nothing. Truly to know and despise self is the best and most perfect counsel. To think of oneself as nothing, and always to think well and highly of others is the best and most perfect wisdom. Wherefore, if you see another sin openly or commit a serious crime, do not consider yourself better, for you do not know how long you can remain in good estate. All men are frail, but you must admit that none is more frail than yourself.”*
 - A person who has TRULY Encounter God
 - Understands there is nothing to boast about!
 - It's all God!!!!
 - We will cry out like Isaiah! (Isaiah 6:5)

- And when we really understand who we are before God
- It will give us the humility to love others!

• **Fourth: Put ON – Meekness v. 12g**

Colossians 3:12 (NKJV)

12 *Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering;*

○ **1st The Word Meekness**

- Greek: Praotes –
- Means: Gentleness, mildness, meekness
 - Meekness is not weakness; it is power under control.
 - This word was used to describe a soothing wind, a healing medicine, and a colt that had been broken.
 - In each instance, there is power: a wind can become a storm; too much medicine can kill; a horse can break loose.
- But this power is under control.
 - The meek person does not have to fly off the handle because he has everything under control

○ **2nd Lesson**

- **Meekness toward Others**
 - Take all these characteristics – this is what meekness toward others should look like
- **Meekness toward God**

- Is that attitude where I learn to accept God's dealings toward me as good
 - So I don't argue with God or resist what He's doing.
- **We see "meekness" When He's praying in the Garden**

Luke 22:42 (NKJV)

42 saying, *"Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done."*

- **We see it when Jesus is being arrested and He tells Peter to put his sword away**

Matthew 26:52–53 (NKJV)

52 But Jesus said to him, *"Put your sword in its place, for all who take the sword will perish by the sword.*

53 *Or do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels?"*

- **We see it as Jesus breathes His last breath**

Luke 23:46 (NKJV)

46 And when Jesus had cried out with a loud voice, He said, *"Father, 'into Your hands I commit My spirit.' "* Having said this, He breathed His last.

• **Fifth: Put ON – Longsuffering v. 12h**

Colossians 3:12 (NKJV)

12 Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, **longsuffering;**

○ **1st The Word Longsuffering –**

- Greek: Makrothumia
- Means: ("long" + "burning") – patience, forbearance, slowness in avenging wrongs
- This word is literally "long-temper."

○ **2nd Lesson**

- The short-tempered person
 - Speaks and acts impulsively and lacks self-control.
- When a person is long-suffering,
 - He can put up with provoking people or circumstances without retaliating.
- We Christians are to be patient with others.
 - *Chuck Smith: “You have to put up with me and I have to put up with, and I am not sure who has the biggest problem”.*

• **Sixth: Put ON – Bearing With One Another v. 13a**

Colossians 3:13 (NKJV)

13 bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.

○ **1st The Word Bearing with –**

- Greek: Anechomai –
- Means: To hold up; to bear, to endure
- Holding yourselves back from one another
- This word literally means “to hold up” or “to hold back

○ **2nd Lesson**

- God is forbearing toward sinners in that He holds back His judgment (Rom. 2:4; 3:25).
 - Meekness, long-suffering, and forbearance go together.

- We Need each other in this battle we are in
- Application
 - In today's culture if we come across someone we call toxic
 - We run – instead of working through problems with other believers we bail

- **Illustration –**

- Carey Nieuwhof on Generation Z
- Avg. age of Pastor 60
- Gen Z will not work in a toxic Environment
- Gen Z pastors want to be paid well
- Well, we are in trouble!

- **Seventh: Put ON – Forgiveness v. 13b**

Colossians 3:13 (NKJV)

13 bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.

- **1st WE MUST Forgive OTHERS**

- **1st It is Christ LIKE (Eph. 4:32)**

- As Christ Forgave you
- How many of your sins did Christ forgive you of?

- **Turn to Matthew 18:21-35**

- **2nd Lesson**

- To forgive someone involves a few things.
 - **1st I have been forgiven MUCH**
 - So I much forgive the same
 - **2nd It means to forego the right of striking back.**
 - One rejects the urge to repay gossip with gossip and a bad turn with a worse turn.
 - **3rd It means replacing the feeling of resentment and anger**
 - With good will, a love which seeks the other's welfare, not harm
 - *Show Pic*
 - *Corrie ten Boom Quote; "Forgiveness is the key that unlocks the door of resentment and the handcuffs of hatred. It is a power that breaks the chains of bitterness and the shackles of selfishness"*
 - **4th It means the forgiving person**
 - Takes concrete steps to restore good relations

Romans 12:18 (NKJV)

18 If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.

• ***Eighth: Put ON – LOVE v. 14***

Colossians 3:14 (NKJV)

14 But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.

○ ***The Word Love***

- Greek: Agape

- Means: God's special kind of love.
- **The Word Bond –**
 - Greek: Sundesmos
 - Means: That which binds together, a band, bond
- **The Word Perfection –**
 - Greek: Teleiotes –
 - Means: The state of the more intelligent; from teleios – full grown, adult, mature
- **Lesson**
 - The Greatest Glue
 - LOVE
 - (1 Corinthians 13)
 - Love considers others first

Our Process vs. 15-17

• **First: The PEACE of Christ v. 15**

- **1st Peace Of God v. 15a**

Colossians 3:15 (NKJV)

15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.

- Remember 2 types of PEACE
 - 1st Peace WITH God
 - Reconciled at the Cross

- 2nd Peace OF God
 - We have His very presence with us at all time

John 14:27 (NKJV)

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.

Isaiah 26:3 (NKJV)

3 You will keep him in perfect peace, Whose mind is stayed on You, Because he trusts in You.

- **2nd In Context here v. 15b**

Colossians 3:15 (NKJV)

15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.

▪ **1st Rule**

- Greek: Brabeuo
- Means: **To be an Umpire**; to decide, determine; to direct
 - The word translated “rule” is an athletic term.
 - It means “to preside at the games and distribute the prizes.”

▪ **2nd Rule In MY heart first**

- Umpire me first
- Is His peace ruling in me first?!

▪ **3rd Ruling in the Body - Called ONE Body**

- As well as UMPIRE the church
- And BE THANKFUL

- **4th Lesson**

- The Peace of God Umpires in His Body
 - The WORD of GOD is the FINAL Authority
 - Not my Feeling
 - Not my Opinions
 - BUT the WORD of GOD as it UMPIRES our lives will bring PEACE
 - And as a result we are THANKFUL

- **Second: The WORD of Christ v. 16**

Colossians 3:16 (NKJV)

***16** Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.*

- **1st Context**
 - **1st We need to understand how this verse should be read**
 - There is disagreement as to how verse 16 should be Punctuated
 - Please NOTE
 - There was NO Punctuation in the original language of the NT
 - The meaning of such a verse as this is largely determined by the punctuation marks that are used.
 - **2nd Commentators Suggest – I agree because of context**

- *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another; in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.*

- There is now 3 sections to the verse.

○ **2nd Section # 1**

▪ **“Let the word of Christ dwell in us richly”**

- Meaning

- The Word of Christ refers to the teachings of Christ as found in the Bible.
- Word = Bible – Simple point

- Application

- We MUST saturate our hearts and minds with His Holy Word
- WE MUST Seek to OBEY
- Then the word of Christ is really at home in our hearts.
- Through the Bible READY – (Reference book)
 - As a family
 - As an Individual
 - Let make 2024 the years we spend more time in God’s Word like never before

○ **3rd Section # 2**

- **“In all Wisdom we should be Teaching and Admonishing one another.”**

- Meaning
 - Wisdom
 - God's Word
 - Teaching
 - Teaching has to do with Doctrine
 - Admonishing
 - Has to do with Duty – Responsibility – CORRECTION
 - In our Own Lives
 - In our Families
 - In our Church
 - In Our Culture
- Application
 - This is EVERY Christian has a responsibility
 - To his brothers and sisters in Christ concerning this matter.
 - We owe it to our brethren to share our knowledge of the Scripture with them, and to seek to help by practical and godly counsel.
- **4th Section # 3**
 - **“With psalms and hymns and spiritual songs we should sing with grace in our hearts to the Lord.”**
 - Meaning

- Psalms
 - Describe those inspired Words in the Book of Psalm
- Hymns
 - Are generally understood as songs of worship and praise addressed to God the Father or to the Lord Jesus Christ
- Application
 - May we ALL Sing them with GRACE in our HEARTS
 - Sing them with all our hearts
 - Really Understand the Words we are sings
 - Use them to encourage us through out the week

• **Third: The NAME of Christ v. 17**

Colossians 3:17 (NKJV)

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.

- **1st Simple - EVERYTHING WE DO WE DO FOR JESUS**
 - 1st All in His NAME of the Lord Jesus
 - As Christians, We bear the Name of Christ.
 - The word Christian is found only three times in the entire New Testament (Acts 11:26; 26:28; 1 Peter 4:16).
 - The name was given originally as a term of contempt
 - But gradually it became a name of honor

- What we do – Everything we do –
 - Has Jesus' name attached to it!
- **2nd His name means**
 - Identification - We belong to Jesus Christ
 - Authority
 - When represent Him with the authority of God's Word
- **3rd Giving Thanks**
 - Thanksgiving MUST fill our lives
- **4th Application**
 - This MUST IMPACT Every Part of our lives
 - So - no matter what we're doing – it is in HIS name
 - So - We must represent His name WELL
 - Sadly –
 - When some in the world hear you're a 'Christian' they don't want to hire you...
 - Lets make sure we're not giving God a bad name

Closing

- I need to hear this everyday – UNTIL I GET IT – How about you?!