

## Colossians 3:12-17

Modelling Godly Character - How do we do that? This is a verse that can show us the world has a way of getting us down.. When we focus on these earthly things our eyes slip from the “things above.” We forget the blessings and promises we have through our adoption as sons and daughters of Jesus and our satisfaction in Christ slips away as well. Yet, it doesn’t have to be this way! Colossians 3 explores what it means to set your mind on things above, enabling us to experience the true joy the Father wants to lavish on us. Furthermore, when we set our eyes on Him, we are better able to serve him on our frontlines—and service is ultimately the duty and pleasure of every believer.

v.12 Paul is not just writing about certain things we must do as a follow of Jesus; he is writing about the whole of life. Paul has called the Colossians to ‘put off’ certain qualities, and now he calls them to ‘put on’ certain characteristics which are basically, the fruits of the Spirit Gal 5:22-23

v.13 tells us Jesus forgave us. If our sins against God are forgiven, if Jesus died on the cross to pay for our sins, doesn’t that make it easier to forgive others? We are to be a community of forgiven sinners who are empowered by the Holy Spirit to forgive each other.

v.15 When we focus on things of this world, our peace is stolen from us. We become wrapped up in the transient things and forget the eternal foundation and unshifting identity we have in Christ. He is worthy of your trust, and he is more than able to keep you at peace as you seek him first.

v.16 One of the best ways to set your mind on things above is to cherish God’s Word. We cannot expect to have peace, joy and a Christ-centered perspective if we only consume the material of this world. designed to share the good news and discuss heavenly things with others. It only makes sense that reading, discussing, and sharing Christ-centered things will shift our mind from the things of this world to his truth.

v.17 Thankfulness may not come easily in all situations in life. It reminds us of who we are and shifts our focus from our worries to God’s power to save and provide.

**<sup>14</sup> And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.**

### Questions

1. There is an intentionality about ‘clothing’ ourselves, which requires conscious daily decisions about what to wear – clothes which are to be appropriate for our new life in Christ. How does this inform us on our frontlines, do we consider what spiritual clothing we are putting on, is it darkness or is it light?
2. What Paul is asking us is to live a counter cultural life on our frontlines, what kind of challenges or joys would you find putting this teaching into action? Why?
3. Forgiving one another is not easy, but Paul demands it because Christ has forgiven us (Matthew 6:14-15) How can we forgive others who have hurt us especially on our frontlines?
4. Most of the qualities imply the significance of relationship. How can verse 17 help us on our frontlines and why?