

Colossians 3:12-17

“Now What? Love!”

Scripture: Colossians 3:12-17

Memory Verse: Colossians 3:14 *“But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.”*

Lesson Focus: Continuing in our “*Jesus is Risen! Now What?*” theme, our answer this week is “**LOVE**”. These few verses in Colossians describe a kind of recipe for the model church and believer. We will pick off ingredients from each verse and show how God would have us pursue each ingredient individually and corporately as a church with love being the supreme ingredient that holds them all together!

Activities and Crafts: Coloring Picture of Memory Verse, Word Search of different terms from lesson, Bring it Home Discussion for 3rd – 5th.
Craft for 1st & 2nd: Put Off, Put On Cut-Out

Starter Activity: Recipes

Recipes are something that the kids should be familiar with and to get them engaged ask them for some ideas of some home-cooked or home-baked things that they really like (i.e. grandma’s chocolate chip cookies, Aunt Bertha’s lasagne, etc.)

After hearing a few ideas settle on one that you will go deeper into. Ask the kids what grandma or whoever needs to cook or bake that yummy thing: a RECIPE!

A recipe is a list of ingredients that go into making something yummy. Now ask the kids what ingredients go into that yummy thing that you settled on. Below we will use chocolate chip cookies as our example, but feel free to use whatever you like (and consider bringing in samples to make it more fun!). Some ingredients:

- 1) Butter
- 2) Sugar
- 3) Eggs
- 4) Flour
- 5) Chocolate Chips

While these ingredients might help us make the best chocolate chip cookies, our Bible study today is going to show us the recipe for the best church. * If we want to be a church, a community of believers in Jesus Christ, that is appealing, attractive, and “scrumptious” to the world around us, then God has told us what ingredients we need to apply to ourselves and to each other. Let’s take a look at God’s recipe!

Bible Study:

Colossians 3:12a: Therefore...what question do we ask when we start with this word?

A: What is it “**there for**”? *

Read Colossians 3:9-10. Last week we talked about how as Christians we are to PUT OFF the old life of sin and PUT ON the new life in Jesus Christ. * We are God’s children now and as we have received Him, we are to so **walk** in Him! (**Colossians 2:6**)

Teachers: Consider drawing on the board a bowl or cookie tray and writing each ingredient into that bowl as we walk through them below in this study.

Colossians 3:12b: God’s children are the elect or “chosen” of God. *

Church Ingredient #1: People! Just like you need chocolate chips to have chocolate chip cookies, you can’t have a church without people!

Notice that it is God who has chosen the people. If you are Christian, you have chosen God, but God has also chosen you!

Colossians 3:12c: Here is more of what God’s chosen people are to PUT ON!

Church Ingredient #2: Humility! Being Humble!

Q: What does it mean to be humble?

A: It does NOT mean to think less of yourself, but to think of yourself less. *

This is a very important ingredient. Every day we decide who is #1: God, others, or ourselves. How does the proud person rank these? How does the humble person? *

Colossians 3:13: Church Ingredient #3: Forgiveness!

Q: What does it mean to forgive?

A: When someone hurts you, you choose not to hurt back or to hold it against them.

This is VERY HARD! But who does v. 13 say forgave us? Jesus Christ!

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 remember to forgive others? Yes! We are to be a community of forgiven sinners who are empowered by the Holy Spirit to forgive each other. *

Colossians 3:14: Paul says “above all” of these other things to put on LOVE.

Boys and Girls: LOVE is not just another ingredient among the many, but it is like the bowl that holds all of the ingredients together. * We will unpack this further at the end.

Colossians 3:15a: Let the peace of God rule in your hearts!

Church Ingredient #4: Peace!

Q: What does peace mean? A: All is good! No fighting! People in harmony.

Teachers: Consider bringing a rubber-band. As you stretch that rubber-band out in front of the kids, ask them if it is in a state of peace? No way! Life will stress us out just like this rubber-band gets stressed and it is only the peace of God “ruling in our hearts” that will help us remain at peace.

Colossians 3:15b: Church Ingredient #5: Thanksgiving! *

Thanksgiving is something that is often expressed by our **attitude**.

Teachers: Consider writing “attitude” on the board and asking the kids what this word means. Then replace the first “att” in the word with “brat”. Ask them what this means (BRATitude) and if this is what being thankful looks like. Then erase the “b” and replace with “g” (gratitude). It is from an “attitude of gratitude” that we give thanks and that we show appreciation to God for what He has given us.

Colossians 3:16a: Church Ingredient #6: The Word!

Q: The Word is to dwell in us RICHLY! We can’t forget about God’s Word!

Q: What happens if you bake chocolate chip cookies without butter?

A: They will be dry and hard and not at all good. Baking experts say that butter holds the secret to making the best cookies!

God’s Word is the irreplaceable ingredient to making the best church! We are to immerse ourselves in the Word of God. It is to be RICHLY mixed in to all that we do both in the church and in our lives! If we neglect God’s Word, we will be dry and **we will crumble** just like those cookies without butter!

And you know what happens when we are faithfully in God’s Word? It will cause us to respond with the next ingredient:

Colossians 3:16b: Church Ingredient #7: Worship!

The word of Christ reminds us of what God has done for us. We respond with singing from our hearts to Him together as a church.

Colossians 3:17: This final verse reminds us WHY we are to PUT ON and pursue these things. We do not do this because we just have to be good. We do not do this because we have to be something before God will love us. No!

Key Point: We PUT ON and pursue these things because we have first been loved by God. Remember v. 12 says that we are His beloved! Wow!

Remember in v. 14 it said that LOVE is what perfectly bonds or holds all of these ingredients together. We must first know and treasure God's agape love for us.

- 1) Only as we see how Jesus Christ **humbled** Himself by coming down from heaven, walking among us, and going to the cross for us are we then able to go and **humbly** serve others.
- 2) Only as we see how great a price Jesus paid to **forgive** us, are we then able to go and **forgive** others.
- 3) Only as we see how Jesus's death on the cross gives us **peace** with God are we then able to go and be **peacemakers** with others.

Do you see how all these ingredients that God would have us apply to our lives all fit together in love?

PUT ON LOVE this week!

Because God loved you, go and humbly serve someone.

Because God loved you, go and forgive someone who has hurt you.

Because God loved you, go and make peace with someone.

Because God loved you, go and be thankful for what you have. *

Because God loved you, go and be in God's Word.

Because God loved you, go and sing to Him from your heart!

Bring It Home

Lesson Theme: “Now What? LOVE!”

Scripture: Colossians 3:12-17

Memory Verse: Colossians 3:14 *“But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.”*

Teachers/Parents: In class we characterized these few verses as God’s perfect “recipe” for His church, with love being the unique “ingredient” that holds all of the ingredients together. What are some of your favorite family recipes and what ingredients go into them? What makes those recipes special?

Discussion Questions:

- 1) In **Colossians 3:12**, notice that before we are told what virtues or “ingredients” we are to “put on”, we are first reminded of who we are in Christ. How does being reminded of who we are help us be better motivated to go and “put on” these virtues?
- 2) What do you think it looks like to “put on” humility? **Read Luke 22:27** for an example.
- 3) In **Colossians 3:13**, we are commanded to be quick to forgive. But this can be VERY HARD to do. What does this verse say is the key to being able to forgive someone else? Is there anyone in your family right now that you need to stop and show forgiveness to?
- 4) **Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-3**. Can you think of any examples of how we can “do good things”, but not in love?
- 5) In **Colossians 3:15**, we are commanded to be thankful. In class we talked about how thanksgiving is an expression of our attitude. We can either have “BRAT-itude” or “gratitude”. What is the difference? What are some things that you can choose to be thankful for this week?
- 6) **Colossians 3:16** says that God’s Word is to be RICHLY dwell within us. Parents: Will you take the time to ensure God’s Word RICHLY dwells within your home this week? **Read Deuteronomy 6:6-7**. That is God’s intent for you!
- 7) These verses can overwhelm us with lots of doing. But review question #1. When we remember what God has done for us, the doing becomes less of a duty and more of a delight. **Read Colossians 3:17**. What is one thing that you will delight to do in Christ this week?