

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION (Colossians 3:12-17)

1. Read Colossians 3:1-17.

How do verses 1-11 relate to and help us better understand verses 12-17?

How do these verses indicate a genuine need for one another in this life?

As you look specifically at verses 9 & 10 - why is this even necessary to state?

What does it reveal about our tendencies/propensities in our fleshly nature?

Why is it so important for Paul to identify these things before going into verses 11-17?

2. Read verses 12-13

How does the description of the believers motivate them us to carry out the directives in verses 12 & 13?

What is so special about us being "chosen, holy, and beloved" by God?

Look at the list of character traits outlined in verse 12

Do any of these more easily resonate with you, or do you find yourself to naturally struggle with some/all of them?

Why is it so important for us to "Put on...compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience"?

How does this help us to represent Christ & enable us to love others better (inside & outside of the church)?

Look at verse 13 - why is the word "forgive" emphasized so much in this verse (three times)?

Why is forgiveness such an important trait to be on display of the Body of Christ?

Is there anybody in The Church (not just New Hope) that you're struggling to forgive?

Have you become better or resentful toward somebody else over time?

What steps do you need to take in order to obey the Lord and step into forgiveness?

**If you're struggling to forgive somebody, ask the Lord to remind you of His great forgiveness to you through Jesus.

Our Lord has given greater grace and mercy to each of us than we can ever imagine!!

Since we've received such abundant grace and mercy, who are we to hold something over somebody who's hurt us?

(Read Matthew 18:21-35 if you really want to see how Jesus feels about this issue)?

3. Read verses 14-15

What stands out to you about these two verses?

How does love bind everything else together (and essentially enable all of the characteristics to develop in our lives)?

(Read 1 Corinthians 13 if you're struggling to understand the importance of love)

What does it mean to be in "perfect harmony" and how does that apply in this sense?

Why is the peace of Christ supposed to "rule in our hearts" and what does it look like for His peace to "rule" (i.e. umpire).

The peace of Christ has an eternal reality (peace with God) and a temporal one (peace regardless of the circumstance)

How also does the peace of Christ relate to us being called in one body and why is this SO important for us who are in Jesus?

Why do you believe he ends verse 15 with "And be thankful"?

Why is gratitude so important to Christian life, and how does it impact our ability to better represent Jesus in this life?

4. Read Verse 16

What is our responsibility to one another outlined here?

In this verse, it tells us how we are able to do this - what is the solution God gives us to enable us to obey this command?

What does it look like for us to be "teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom"

How do we step into this in a way that is humble and helpful for one another?

What does it mean to be able to both teach & admonish AND to be taught & admonished by one another?

Do you find yourself better able to engage in corporate worship when there is a particular style of music?

Or is there is a specific genre that you really struggle to engage with?

Does this passage help you to actively participate in all worship services regardless of our musical/stylistic preferences?

Why do you think "worship wars" are a thing, and why have they become such an issue of division in churches?

What does this term itself reveal about our hearts and our misunderstandings about worship?

How can we get over our personal opinions & choose to worship our Lord regardless of the musical style?

How can we look at the situation with a positive outlook?

Consider that the style(s) you don't connect with, a brother/sister in Christ might really appreciate!

Consider - not having it "YOUR way" all the time will help you to recognize that worship isn't about you!

Consider - this may cause you to think more about WHAT is proclaimed rather than HOW it's proclaimed!

Consider - there is diversity in the Body of Christ, and it is a blessing to be able to glorify God in our unity!

5. Read verse 17

How does this verse absolutely sum up everything that was just written?

In what way does this verse really articulate the reality of the Christian life all together?

What does this look like in practical, every day situations?

What are some areas that you can think of where you're NOT applying this verse?

How can you pursue growth in this way in these specific areas (what can you do differently)?

6. Below are the "So What?" statements from the end of the sermon.

Do any of these particularly encourage, convict, challenge, you, and if so, how?

1. If we are Christ's, our lives should/must/will reflect Him!
2. We love in response to the forgiveness we've received!
3. We are One Body in Jesus, and must be united in Him!
4. Let the Word of Christ dwell within us and be grateful!
5. Our lives are for the glory of God - live through Jesus!