

**New People, Renewed Mission****Colossians 3:12-13****READY**

How would you feel if you deeply treasured something and others neglected it or mistreated it? Why?

**SET & GO**

**Primary Text:** Colossians 3:12-13    **Supporting Texts:** Genesis 1:26-28

**Set 1** *Read Colossians 3:12-13 aloud. Answer the following questions:*

What three words does Paul use to describe us in v 12?

What five virtues are we to “put on” in v 12?

What two practices does Paul command in v 13 and for whom are we to practice them?

At the end of v 13, what reason does Paul give for treating each other this way?

**Set 2** *Briefly discuss: The new you is now part of a new people. Our union with one another is so profound that Paul writes of us as having been collectively chosen, set apart, and beloved. That God would choose us, set us apart for His purposes, and place His special love upon us, communicates the amazing value He places upon the church, the community of His chosen and beloved saints.*

**Go 2a** If God so greatly values us as a community, how should this affect your attitude toward the church?

**Go 2b** Why is it so difficult to let go of your individualism and embrace a community identity? In what ways do you see your individualism or independence play out in your life?

**Set 3** *Briefly discuss: The word “holy” in v 12 means to be purified and set apart for a special purpose or mission. This mission is not new. Genesis 1:26-28 lays it out for us; we are to image God forth to the world. But this mission is being **renewed**. V 10 says the “new self is being **renewed**...according to the image of the One who created him.” In other words, we are being reshaped in order to fulfill God’s original purpose for mankind, and this purpose can only be fulfilled in community.*

**Go 3a** Read Genesis 1:26-28. Identify all of the plurals (e.g. “us,” “them”) and plural concepts (e.g. “multiply,” “fill”). What does this say about how we live out what it means to be “in His image?”

**Go 3b** To “image God forth” is to display His character. Of all that is possible, what does God choose to reveal about His character in Exodus 34:6-7\*? What does this say about what we should be displaying as His people?

**Set 4** *Briefly discuss: As His people, we most display God’s character by living out the character of Christ (v 13 “just as”), because He is “the image of the invisible God” (Col. 1:15). Christ was filled with compassion. He was kind and humble. He was gentle and infinitely patient. Paul indicates that these virtues are best displayed by us in the practices of bearing with each other and forgiving each other.*

**Go 4a** Discuss how Christ displayed the five virtues listed in v 12. Which of these virtues do you struggle with most?

**Go 4b** What makes it so difficult to bear with others? To forgive others?

**Set 5** *Briefly discuss: In the last sentence of v 13, not only does Paul give the “how,” but he also gives the “why.” Because Christ bears with you and forgives you, you ought to do the same toward your new community for whom Christ also died. Paul is grounding our treatment of one another in the gospel.*

**Go 5a** Discuss the statement, “You cannot revel in what Christ did for you and continue to mistreat others?”

**Go 5b** Take a few minutes and discuss (or meditate upon) this concept of preaching the gospel to yourself in relation to how you conduct yourself in this world, especially toward your church community.

**FINISH**

Are you finding it difficult to put up with someone? What is most bothering you? What aspects of the gospel can help you learn to show grace? If you don’t know, reach out to someone for help (don’t share identities or gossip).

\* Please do not get hung up on the last phrase of v 7. If that statement confuses you, ask Pastor Kelly about it.

**Walk it Out!**  
**Living Christian in a New Reality**

*New People, Renewed Mission*  
Colossians 3:12-13

You are part of a new people of God commissioned to display His gracious character to each other and to the world by living out Christ's example.

1. Who are we?
  - a. We are a \_\_\_\_\_ people.
  - b. We are a \_\_\_\_\_ people.
  - c. We are a \_\_\_\_\_ people.
2. What is our renewed mission?
3. How do we do it?
4. Why do we do it?