

# COLOSSIANS

DAY 3

Colossians 3

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LOVE ONE ANOTHER

## Colossians 3:14 (TLB)

"Most of all, let love guide your life, for then the whole church will stay together in perfect harmony."

**Colossians 3:14 (MSG)** "And regardless of what else you put on, wear love. It's your basic, all-purpose garment. Never be without it."

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Where Chapter 2 seeks to tear down the idols and legalism that pervaded the church, Chapter 3 is all about rebuilding their sense of identity through the work and love of Jesus Christ. Essentially, Paul wants to eradicate the pride that comes with legalism and replace it with the humility that comes from a life lived out of love.

Throughout this chapter, Paul lays out a step-by-step plan for how to do this, which is as relevant to us today as it was to the Colossians. First, shift your focus from yourself to the world around you, and ask God to show you his perspective in every situation and every person. Second, live in the reality of your salvation, which is to say that we don't strive for ourselves but allow the Holy Spirit to work in us and through us. Third, instead of "doing whatever you feel like whenever you feel like it" (vs. 5, MSG), allow your life and your character to be shaped by God. Fourth, speak to each other in love and a truth that is rooted in the Word instead of religion and tradition.

Paul's final directive in this chapter is simply for us to love each other, first and foremost and above all else, which is echoed in 1 Peter 4:8: "most of all, love each other as if your life depended on it. Love makes up for practically anything" (MSG). Furthermore, Paul makes a direct connection between this immense love and a heart of gratitude. After all, how can we love the people God has surrounded us with if we are not thankful for His work in our lives? Finally, Paul emphasizes the need for community in vs. 15: "for as members of one body you are called to live in peace" (NLT). True, relationships can be messy, but there is an unparalleled peace that comes with knowing that God has purposefully placed people in your life so that you don't have to walk alone.

In looking at Paul's instructions, what areas of your life do you feel challenged to address? How can you show the love of God to those around you?

What is God speaking to me about in today's reading?

## MY PRAYER FOR TODAY: