



Pointers and questions on Paul's letter to the
COLOSSIANS

Session **8**

3:12-17

Embracing the New Ways of Christ

Summary

3:12-14 Having taken off (as a garment) our old way of life, we are now to 'clothe ourselves' with the new, loving, other-oriented attitudes appropriate to our Christian profession.

3:15-16 Corporately, our life now is to be marked by peace, thankfulness and mutual encouragement.

3:17 The governing factor in this new lifestyle is that we do *everything* 'in the name of the Lord Jesus', that is, in submission to him and in a way that reflects his own character.

Questions to get you thinking

1. Who, according to v1, are 'God's chosen people' (v1). How would you answer those who maintain that it is in fact the people of Israel who are that people?
2. Look at the list of godly attitudes in v12. How would you rate yourself out of ten in each of them?
3. Relationships are never easy, even in Christian circles. What are the areas in v13 that tend to be sources of problems between believers—both in Paul's day and today?
4. 'Forgive, as the Lord forgave you' (v13). Can you think of any other scriptures that urge the same thing upon us? If you get stuck, look at Matthew 18:21-35.
5. What kind of 'love' (Greek *agapē*) is meant in v14? Romantic love? Sentimental love? Some other kind? What are its features? You may find some clues in John 15:12, which uses the same word.
6. The word 'rule' in v15 means literally 'act as umpire'. What do you think it means to let Christ's peace act that way in our hearts?
7. How can we 'teach and admonish one another' (v16) in the local church? Note that this is not just a function of leaders, but of every member.
8. How many references to thankfulness can you find in v15-17. Would other people comment on thankfulness as a characteristic of your life?
9. What does it mean to speak and act 'in the name of the Lord Jesus' (v17)? Do you always speak and act that way?

