

# FLOURISH IN CHRIST – Discussion Guide

Colossians 3:12–17

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## Introduction: What Does It Mean to Flourish?

### Read Colossians 3:12–17 together

Paul reminds us that flourishing isn't about circumstances—it's about being rooted in Christ. This passage shifts from *who we are* to *how that identity shapes our life together*.

### Discussion Questions

- How is biblical flourishing different from how our culture defines a “good life”?
- Paul begins with identity (“chosen, holy, dearly loved”) before behaviour—why do you think that matters?

## 1. Flourishing Happens Together (Read: Colossians 3:12–13)

“Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved...”

Paul grounds everything in identity, then calls us to “*clothe ourselves*” with Christlike character—qualities that are deeply relational.

### Discussion Questions

#### Identity → Transformation

- How does knowing you are already loved by God change the way you approach growth or change?
- Which of these qualities do you find most natural: compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience? Which do you find most challenging—and why?
- Why do you think every one of these qualities is relational?
- How has being part of a Christian community helped shape your character?

## Forgiveness & Bearing With One Another (v13)

- What does it mean to “*bear with one another*” in real life?
- Why is forgiveness essential for a healthy church community?
- What makes forgiveness difficult—and what helps make it possible?

## 2. Love Holds the Community Together (Read: Colossians 3:14 + v13)

“And over all these virtues put on love...” Love is not just one virtue among many—it is what binds everything together.

### Discussion Questions

#### Love as the Defining Mark

- Why do you think Paul elevates love above all the other qualities?
- What does love look like in *ordinary, everyday interactions* (not just big moments)?
- What happens to kindness, patience, or humility when love is absent?
- Paul speaks about *unity*, not uniformity—what’s the difference?
- Why is “bearing with one another” such a realistic and necessary part of church life?
- How can we grow in extending grace when people disappoint or hurt us?

### **3. Christ Is the Source of Our Flourishing** (Read: Colossians 3:15–17)

“Let the peace of Christ rule...” “Let the message of Christ dwell...” “Whatever you do... do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus...” Paul brings everything back to Christ as the source.

#### **Discussion Questions**

##### **The Peace of Christ (v15)**

- What does it mean for Christ’s peace to “rule” in your heart?
- What tends to compete with that peace in your life?
- How might this peace shape the way we relate to others?

##### **The Message of Christ (v16)**

- What does it look like for Christ’s message to “dwell richly” in a person? In a community?
- How is this different from just knowing Scripture intellectually?
- In what ways can we help each other grow in this (teaching, encouragement, worship, etc.)?

##### **Whole-of-Life Worship (v17)**

- What does it look like to do *everything* in the name of Jesus?
- Which parts of your life are easiest to connect to Christ? Which are hardest?

**Application for the Week: Living Colossians 3** *Let’s move from discussion to practice.*

#### **Choose to take an intentional step this week:**

##### **1. Put On One Virtue**

- Choose one: compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, or patience
- Each day, intentionally practice it in one specific situation

##### **2. Do One Ordinary Thing “In Jesus’ Name”**

- Choose a normal part of your day (work, conversation, family moment)
- Intentionally do it as an act of worship

#### **Closing Reflection**

- Where did you sense God speaking to you most clearly this week?
- What is one thing you want to carry into the week?

*“When Christ is at the centre, our lives do more than survive... they begin to flourish.”*

#### **Pray Together:**