



## II. Start Loving– Colossians 3:12-17 (GWT)

<sup>12</sup>As holy people whom God has chosen and loved, be sympathetic, kind, humble, gentle, and patient. <sup>13</sup>Put up with each other, and forgive each other if anyone has a complaint. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. <sup>14</sup>Above all, be loving. This ties everything together perfectly. <sup>15</sup>Also, let Christ's peace control you. God has called you into this peace by bringing you into one body. Be thankful. <sup>16</sup>Let Christ's word with all its wisdom and richness live in you. Use psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to teach and instruct yourselves about God's kindness. <sup>17</sup>Sing to God in your hearts. <sup>17</sup>Everything you say or do should be done in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

John 13:35 says that the world will know us by our love for one another. I don't know about you but for me loving isn't always easy. So how do I get from here to there? I must choose to abide in His presence and let His word reign in my life. When I do this, loving others becomes a natural event that is not so difficult.

Reflect on the Fruit of the Spirit from Galatians 5:22 for a moment...Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Gentleness, Kindness, Goodness and Faith. Love is the key that empowers the rest and contrary to some teaching we can't pick and choose we either have the Fruit of the Spirit or we don't.

So Paul is saying that Love ties everything together – perfectly! This is the reflection of genuine holiness.

Discuss V. 17...

## III. Treat Others Right – Colossians 3:18-25 (GWT)

<sup>18</sup>Wives, place yourselves under your husbands' authority. This is appropriate behavior for the Lord's people. <sup>19</sup>Husbands, love your wives, and don't be harsh with them. <sup>20</sup>Children, always obey your parents. This is pleasing to the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Fathers, don't make your children resentful, or they will become discouraged. <sup>22</sup>Slaves, always obey your earthly masters. Don't obey them only while you're being watched, as if you merely wanted to please people. Be sincere in your motives out of respect for your real master. <sup>23</sup>Whatever you do, do it wholeheartedly as though you were working for your real master and not merely for humans. <sup>24</sup>You know that your real master will give you an inheritance as your reward. It is Christ, your real master, whom you are serving. <sup>25</sup>The person who does wrong will be paid back for the wrong he has done. God does not play favorites.

This is not a very popular teaching today, yet it is the word of God. Wives and husbands are charged to live holy by being obedient to God's word. One cannot find better counsel than given here... hopefully our desire is to please the Lord in everything we do.

How are the instructions for slaves relevant to our day and does this mean that God endorses slavery?