

Study Guide

COLOSSIANS

Always. Only. Jesus.

Jesus, Our Pursuit (Part 2) | Colossians 3:11-17

¹¹Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all. ¹²Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, ¹³bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.

¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Introduction

The church is comprised of different people from different places with different backgrounds, personalities, and oddities.

In Colossae, the church included "Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free" (Colossians 3:11). Such a diversity of people meant the possibility for conflict.

It still does.

But in Jesus, we have a new shared identity. And when we pursue Jesus together, we find the church to be a loving, joyful, thankful family of God. Today's text shows us how Jesus makes this possible.

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The BIG Idea:

Pursuing Christ, the church is the loving, joyful, thankful family of God.

Love for the Church (12-15)

Pursue love (12-14).

Pursue peace (15A).

Pursue gratitude (15B).

Life in the Church (16-17)

Pursue the word of Christ (16).

Pursue the glory of Christ (17).

If I had never joined a church till I had found one that was perfect, I should never have joined one at all; and the moment I did join it, if I had found one, I should have spoiled it, for it would not have been a perfect church after I had become a member of it.

Still, imperfect as it is, it is the dearest place on earth to us.

Charles Haddon Spurgeon (19th Century)

Let's Think About It

Getting Started

When you hear the word "family," what comes to mind—positive or negative experiences?

Have you ever experienced conflict in a church setting? What made it difficult?

Identity in Christ (vv. 11–12)

How does being chosen, holy, and beloved shape how we view other believers?

Why is it important that our identity in Christ is shared, not individualistic?

Love for the Church (vv. 12–14)

What does it look like to "bear with" someone in real life?

Why is forgiveness essential in a church family?

Pursuing Peace (v. 15a)

What does it mean to let the peace of Christ rule in your heart?

In disagreements, what does it look like to let Christ—not emotions—decide your response?

The Word of Christ (v. 16)

What does it mean for the Word of Christ to "dwell in you richly"?

Think about the songs you sing with the church—what are they teaching you?

Living for the Glory of Christ (v. 17)

What does it look like to do everything in the name of Jesus?

How does gratitude connect to living for Christ's glory?

The Family of God

William J. Gaither

You will notice we say brother
and sister 'round here.
When one has a heartache
we all share the tears.
And rejoice in each victory
in this family so dear.

From the door of an orphanage
to the house of the King,
No longer an outcast, a new song I sing,
From rags unto riches,
from the weak to the strong,
I'm not worthy to be here,
but praise God I belong.

I'm so glad I'm a part of the family of God.
I've been washed in the fountain,
Cleansed by the blood!
Joint heirs with Jesus as we travel this sod;
For I'm part of the family, the family of God.

[*Christ Is All in All*](#)

[A Song by Keith and Kristyn Getty](#)



Lord, because we share the one true
gospel, lead us as the church to love one
another, serve one another, live in harmony
with one another, show hospitality to one
another, care for one another, be kind one
another, submit to one another, bear one
another's burdens, comfort one another,
encourage one another, exhort one another,
confess to one another, forgive one another,
and pray for one another.

Douglas Sean O'Donnell