

The Jesus Way: Building a Life of Christlike Relationships (3)
Healing Relationships Through Grace
Colossians 3:12–17 (NKJV)

Introduction If you are in a relationship for very long some relationships eventually need repair; God gives us the grace to do it. Grace, not grievance, must shape how believers relate to each other.

“There is the clothing we wear and the ‘clothing’ we live in.”

In Colossians 3: Paul emphasizes “In Christ, you have a new spiritual wardrobe... change what you’re wearing.” He call us to make four commitments to put it on.

I. Chosen identity - Remember who you are (v. 12)

A. Identity before instruction

1. Paul gives us a “Who-you-are list” before the “to-do list”
 - **Chosen (elect)**
 - **Holy**
 - **Beloved**

2. **Gospel pattern emphasized:** *Identity first → Instruction second*

Restoration begins by letting the Lord settle identity with Him before trying to “fix” others.

II. Clothed character - Put on the virtues of grace

A. The five relational virtues (to “put on”)

1. **Compassion / tender mercies** - *Compassion says: “I see your pain, and I move toward you.”*
2. **Kindness** - *Kindness says: “I will treat you better than you deserve because God treated me better than I deserve.”*
3. **Humility**- *Humility says: “I may be wrong. I may have blind spots. I’m willing to listen.”*
4. **Meekness** - *Meekness isn’t weakness aa some suppose, its strength under control.*
5. **Patience / longsuffering** - Patience here is relational staying power that refuses to become bitter.

B. The “put on” command

- This is the intentional, daily, repeated response to strained relationships (diagnostic: what “garment” do I put on when in a strained relationship?)

III. Cleared conflicts - Bear with, forgive, and bind with love (vv 13-14)

A. Expect friction; handle it like Jesus

- **Bearing with one another**
- **Forgiving one another**
- **If anyone has a complaint**
- **“As Christ forgave you, so you also must do.”**
“Grace, not grievance” (Paul reminds us forgiveness is rooted in the cross)

B. The binding principle

- **“Above all... put on love”**
- **Love = “the bond of perfection”**
Healing begins with love as covenant commitment (seeking another’s good)

IV. Christ-centered climate -Let peace rule, the Word dwell, and Jesus’ name direct (vv. 15-17)

A. Let peace rule – like a referee

- **“Let the peace of God rule in your hearts”**
- **“Called in one body”**
- **“Be thankful”**

B. Let the Word dwell - implies residence -“to feel at home.”

- **“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly”**
- **Teaching and admonishing one another**
- **Psalms, hymns, spiritual songs**
- **Singing with grace... to the Lord**

C. Do everything in Jesus’ name

- **“Whatever you do in word or deed... in the name of the Lord Jesus”**
Adrian Rogers emphasizes that “name” includes both character and authority—asking if your actions align with Christ’s character and can be done under His authority.
- **“Giving thanks to God the Father through Him**
Gratitude is relational lubrication.

Conclusion and Response: Choose humility over pride in one difficult relationship. Practice one intentional act of grace this week: Pray daily for the person you’re tempted to resent

- Our motivation: We don’t do this to earn God’s love; we do it because we already have it.
- **John 13:34** — “Love one another as I have loved you.”