



Series: Colossians: Before All Things

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Text: Colossians 3:12-4:2

Title: Everyday Relationships for an Everyday Jesus

Intro: What's up Mercy fam! It's so good to be with you all this morning.

If you're new to Mercy Church this morning, we've been journeying through the Book of Colossians.

This morning, we will pick up where we left off and dive into Colossians Chapter 3, verse 12 through Chapter 4,

verse 1. Meet with me in your Bibles in Colossians 3 verse 12. When you get there, say Amen.

Last week we looked at all the things we should put off as God's new people, such as sexual immorality, lust, greed, and evil desires. This week Paul is going to take us a step further. It's not just good enough for us to put off the things of this world, we need to put on something **NEW**. Paul will teach us what we must put on as God's people. And the things we put on are for our everyday relationships– *how you and I relate to the people in our lives*. What we will see in our text is that

Your Approach to Everyday Relationships Should Reflect Christ in Every Way. That's our main idea.

Your Approach to Everyday Relationships Should Reflect Christ in Every Way!

Paul is going to show us Four of those relationships:

- I. The Church
- II. Marriage
- III. Parenting
- IV. The Workplace

****Two disclaimers I want to give you this morning:**

1. We have a lot of ground to cover this morning, so buckle up buttercup.
2. I feel in me this tension. This burden that Paul is calling the church **and us** to what feels like a





long list of **“do this and do that.”** And I’m like, *“God, I’m just trying to follow you and I can’t keep up with all the things I need to be doing as a Christian.”* There will be a weightiness to the text, but rest assured that Paul isn’t calling us to a long list of to-dos; he’s calling us to a lifestyle. So lean in and don’t check out. **THERE IS GOOD NEWS FOR US THIS MORNING.**

Here we go...

Vs. 12...

Therefore, as God’s chosen ones, holy and dearly loved, put on compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, 13bearing with one another and forgiving one another if anyone has a grievance against another. Just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you are also to forgive. 14Above all, put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity.

Let’s Pray!

Context:

The rule in grammar when you see the word **“therefore”** at the beginning of a sentence is, “You must ask yourself **what is it there for?**”

Paul begins his sentence with “Therefore” and in order for us to understand why Paul is calling us to these things, we must go back.

Remember, Paul from prison writes this letter to the Church at Colossae. He was concerned about a lot of the cultural pressures they were facing. The temptation to shift away from Jesus and the truth of the gospel and follow other teachings and idols.

He wrote to challenge the church to a greater devotion to Jesus.

He opens up in Chapter 1 spending time talking about the supremacy of Jesus. The invisible One who created the heavens and the earth. Who created mankind to reflect Him and for His glory. Everything that He created was perfect– without error before the fall.

He is the One who rules over all things with intentionality and purpose. Who ultimately left heaven and came to earth to die on a cross to reconcile sinners back to God. This Jesus is **BIG** He is to be **EXALTED**. And what He did for us on the cross is unfathomable.

Jesus triumphed over Satan, sin, and death and now He is at work in the members– those who follow Christ, making them more like Him. Renewing them daily, ultimately until one day (which is heaven) when they are fully made like Jesus– perfect!



Therefore, in light of WHO JESUS IS, WHAT HE'S DONE, and WHAT HE'S DOING in His people, you put on these things because this was God's plan all along for His people and it honors Him when your everyday relationships reflect Christ in every way.

Amen?

Therefore, put on:

I. The Church

- **Compassion-** The word means “**bowels of mercy.**” Everyone knows what a bowel is, right? It's the part of your digestive system that is responsible for removing waste from your body. If you have ever heard someone say, “**My bowels are moving,**” then get out of the way. They are saying something is happening in my stomach right now, and I need to get to the bathroom to do something about it. No one has a bowel movement and holds it in for a prolonged period. It has to **come out.**

Compassion ALSO KNOWN AS **MERCY** is responding to another's needs in a way that emulates comfort and care when in distress. In Mark 1:40, a man with leprosy came and begged

Jesus to heal him. The text says, “**Moved with compassion, Jesus reached out and touched the man**” and he was healed. Jesus can't help but show compassion. It's who He is. It spills out of Him. Compassion should be something that flows out of us. **When someone comes to you to confess sin, are you filled with compassion?**

When someone is suffering, are you filled with compassion? When someone in your community group is going through a hard time, are you filled with compassion? Are you compelled to extend comfort and care to those in the church? Does compassion overflow up out of you towards your brothers and sisters in Christ? Paul then calls us to PUT ON...

- **Kindness-** the Greek meaning of this word means one who is **sweet.** They are delightful to be around. They have the ability to put you at ease. They are considerate of others and show concern for others. I love how Tim Keller described kindness. He said, “**Kindness isn't just about saying nice words; it's about showing our love in practical ways with our resources that reflect how much we value someone.**”

Personal Story: I remember hearing the story of this immigrant couple who moved to the States

¹ <https://gospelinlife.com/sermon/kindness-overcoming-self-pity/>



and were awaiting citizenship. Due to their immigration status, they couldn't get jobs so weren't making a lot of money. They ended up having car trouble and it cost a great deal of money for the repairs. They were a part of a community group, and their community group came together and raised enough money to help them get their car fixed. Can you imagine their joy? The tears that rolled down their faces as they experienced the kindness of their community group. **Plato, the Greek Philosopher, once said, "Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a harder battle."**

Thirdly, Paul calls us to PUT ON...

- **Humility-** the word humility means to bring oneself low to the ground. I cringe when I hear the question asked, "How would you describe yourself? And one responds, **'I'm a humble person.'**" I'm like no you're not because humble people don't walk around saying they are humble. It's the antithesis of the definition. Humility is an attitude of the heart that says everything is not about ME. **Look at your neighbor and say, "It's not about you." Parents, look at your kids and say, "It's not about you."** I love how one pastor once said,

²<https://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/19163471-the-freedom-of-self-forgetfulness-the-path-to-true-christian-joy#:~:text=Because%20the%20essence%20of%20gospel,to%20connect%20things%20with%20myself.>

"Humility is not thinking more of myself or thinking less about myself, it is thinking about myself less."²

Here's the thing about humility- it cannot be attained directly. Humility comes from gospel confidence. **WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY GOSPEL CONFIDENCE.** It's a posture of heart that realizes that you are poor and needy, broken and sinful, and a GREAT God came and rescued you and is still rescuing you. It's when you realize that you could have never done ANYTHING to earn a relationship with God but that Jesus did everything necessary to save you. **In the gospel, we have confidence not based on our performance but based on the love of God in Christ.³** This frees the human heart from always having to look at itself. Humility is coming down off your high horse and having an accurate self-view.

Next, Paul calls us to PUT On...

- **Gentleness- simply put- a soft touch.** The imagery here is a mother caring for her child. Paul told the church in Thessalonica chapter 2 verse 7, **"We were gentle among you, like a mother caring for her little children."** It's the shepherd who tenderly cares for his sheep.

³ <http://www.baylorcru.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/The-Advent-of-Humility.pdf>



When I think of gentleness I think of this picture **(FLASH PICTURE)**. When you see this picture, what do you see? What do you feel? **PAUSE** Do you see Jesus who tenderly cares for you? Do you see Jesus who in Matthew 11:29 said, *“Take my yoke upon you for I am gentle in heart.”* Do you see a God who draws you close to Him, snuggles up next to you, and tells you that He loves you and is for you? **Gentleness.**

But catch this, though gentle means a soft touch and tenderness, it does not mean **WEAKNESS**. It doesn't mean you never say the hard things or tell the truth. It's the complete opposite. ***Gentleness means that you say the hard things and tell the truth but you do so by guarding your tone.*** So often in my marriage, my wife has told me, **“Darrick, it's not what you said, it's how you said it.”** And I'm like what? I just told the truth. The truth hurts and people don't want to hear the truth. And she's like, **“Nobody wants to hear the truth if your neck is breaking and you're loud.”** I promise you guys, the Lord is sanctifying me and I'm not always clapping back on people. ***Gentleness is bringing a soft touch to your community while being able to say the hard things.***

- **Patience- Paul calls us to put on patience. To remain under.** One theologian once said, **“Patience is the ability to take trouble from**

others or life without blowing up.” The test of patience shows up in our everyday lives. And, if you're anything like me, you fail that test repeatedly. We often pray the infamous prayer, **“Lord, help me be patient today.”**

And he responds by letting you get stuck in traffic for 30 mins. And what do you do? You hit that GPS on your phone and start searching for alternate routes. You lay on the horn. You ride bumper to bumper not letting anyone in. You speed. You begin to break all the traffic laws. Oh. I know some of ya'll do.

He allows a child to get sick and they become clingy and needy, and you start to snap on them.

He allows everyone to show up to the community group late, unprepared, and they don't want to answer any questions.

Or someone in your community group says something you strongly disagree with, and you are upset, ready to argue your point of view.

Patience looks like being slow to speak and quick to listen. It looks like believing the best in people until they prove you wrong. It looks like. It looks like fervent prayer for the person or about the situation.



Are you able to remain up under the pressures of life and from others or do you blow up at them?

Moving on to the next thing Paul calls us to PUT ON...

- **Vs. 13 Bearing with one another and forgiving one another-** the word “bear” means endure something unpleasant or difficult. Paul’s call here is for believers to willingly endure with one another despite differences and frustrations.

Personal Story: Most of us choose our friend groups based on our preferences, right? Meaning you want to be friends with people who **think** like you, enjoy the same things you enjoy, **look like you**, have similar backgrounds, and have the same socio-economic status? We choose relationships because of convenience and comfort. **We no longer want to work hard to build relationships with others, unlike us.** Most of my best friends today, I would have never imagined we would be best friends. We have very little in common.

Our skin color is different; our upbringing was different; our tax bracket is different; they loved sports; I’m not a big sports guy; I’m a hip hop head; some loved country music **(I am still trying to figure out this country music thing**

but to God be the glory for ya’ll country music fans out there). I am a blunt and direct person, one of my friends is more gentle and passive. The conflict and arguments in those friendships made me want to walk away and say, **“Bump it. I don’t need this drama and I can find friends elsewhere.”** That’s not the solution. **When you are unwilling to bear with one another, it is a sign of emotional and spiritual immaturity.** How many of you look back with your current friends and talk about the fights or disagreements you had? And you’re like, **“Man, you remember when we were duking it out over this? But I thank God we pushed past that.”**

To bear with one another means that you and I learn how to respect differences, embrace conflict; seek to learn rather than to be heard, and be slow to judge.

Paul then pushes us further and says you have to extend forgiveness in those relationships. Hey, conflict is going to happen. Drama is going to pop off. It’s sinful for people who are being redeemed who come together in a community. **Forgiveness is an act of grace, not often deserved but freely given.** For those of you who struggle to forgive wrongdoing (not forget) but truly forgive, it is most likely rooted in a **gospel deficiency**– you have not understood the forgiveness that was freely given to you for your sin against a Holy God. **Your sin cost Jesus His life, and Jesus freely**



forgives you of your past, present, and future sins.

How much more should the Body of Believers be a people ready to extend forgiveness?

Forgiveness does not mean that you forget the hurt and trauma that was caused to you, nor does it mean that you trust the person again or that you willy-nilly walk back into harmful relationships. ***Forgiveness is choosing not to pay back and seeking vengeance for the wrong or hurt caused to you. Horizontal forgiveness is impossible until you understand vertical forgiveness.***⁴

Paul wraps up all of this up and says ABOVE all, you have to clothe yourself with love. Love is the unifying agent. Your unconditional love for your brothers and sisters in Christ is the binding agent.

Think of it this way. I love to bake. I enjoy making homemade desserts from scratch. My wife doesn't like to bake at all. The reason is she said it has too many ingredients. The thing about baking is you need many ingredients, which have to be prepped in a certain way. All wet ingredients are in one bowl, and dry ingredients are in a separate bowl. The thing about baking is almost every recipe will require **eggs. WHY? Because they provide structure and stability and are the binding agent for all the ingredients. Without eggs,**

you have dry cakes, cookies that don't hold together, and cracked meringues.

In the same way, you need love to bind together compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, forbearing, and forgiveness. Without love, all of this is nothing. Jesus said in John 13:35, "By this, all people will know that you are my disciples if you have love for one another."

Paul is going to shift into the second relationship. Keep these things on as you walk into these relationships. It's the relationships in:

- II. **THE HOME.** The primary place where a lot of this will play out. which a lot of this will play out.

Paul is going to break down the home into three different relationships:

- III. **Marriage**
- IV. **Parenting**
- V. **The Workplace**

Vs. 18. "Wives, submit yourselves to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. 19 Husbands, love your wives, and don't be bitter toward them."

⁴ <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/tim-keller-forgive/>



Ya'll, I read these verses and was like, "Who am I to be talking about this?" After 15 years of marriage, my wife and I are still trying to figure marriage out. Still trying to figure out what it looks like to love and submit. **So, if you've been married for two years or thirty years and still figuring it out, "join the crowd."** If you're single and thinking this has nothing to do with me, then just store up the knowledge just in case the Lord blesses you with marriage.

Wives, walk into your marriage and put on the character of Christ and love. AND submit yourselves to your husband.

During the writing of this text, this old patriarchal system allowed the husband to be the ruler of the home. In other words, he dominated his home. Well, In Christ, having a new identity, the husband is the leader but under the rule of Jesus. Thus, a wife allows her husband to lead rather than the husband leading dominantly.⁵ The husband isn't abusing power and saying, **"Submit to me, woman."** He's walking around as a servant to his wife.

Submission is one of those word that have been abused for years. And for many wives, they cringe when they hear it because of its abusive effect. And I want to tell the wives that the text says, **"Submit to**

your husbands AS IS FITTING in the Lord." For some of you, it's not fitting to submit to your husband because he is physically, emotionally, or verbally abusing you or leading you to sin. And I want to encourage you to get help, to call the authorities, and we will have pastors at the end of service in the back who are ready to talk with you.

To submit does not mean that wives are inferior; they are weak, passive, or don't speak what's on their hearts. It means that you willingly lend trust to your husband in light of your new identity and the gospel. You trust him to lead the family as he follows Jesus– the head of the family.

Husbands, this means that you must actively seek the Lord, follow after Jesus wholeheartedly, not lay around passively, and allow your wives to lead the family spiritually and directionally.

Husbands, this also means you want to make it easy for your wives to submit to you. And you do that by loving them and not becoming harsh with them. Their submission is connected to your loving of them. Paul says in Ephesians 5:25 love them the way Christ loves the church. Christ is not harsh, Christ is not easily angered, Christ is not domineering, and most importantly, Christ is selfless. The call for husbands is to

⁵ TBD



love and serve their wives selflessly. **Husbands, what if we asked our wives every day this week, “How can I serve you?” How would that change our marriages? Now, on to parenting.**

*Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. **21 Fathers, do not exasperate your children so they won't become discouraged.***

Children and youth, here's how simple this is. Living under your parents' roof means you are under their authority and leadership. God has commissioned them as parents to raise you and train you in the fear of the Lord. Your obedience to your parents, even when you disagree or think they are being unfair, is honoring the Lord. However, if your parents are pushing you to sin, break the law, or are abusive then you don't want to obey, as what they are doing is not pleasing to the Lord and I want to encourage you as well to seek help.

Parents, specifically **fathers**. You have a role. Do not frustrate and irritate your children to the point they begin to resent you.

The biggest way I have seen this play out in my parenting is that I have expectations and standards for my kids, and rightly so, as their dad. You should, too. You should call your kids to excellence. However, don't let your standards become so burdensome for them that they feel like they can never live up to them or please you which pushes them away from you. I am guilty of often nagging my boys until I have frustrated

them, and they are not responsive to me. I have then provoked them to anger.

At the end of the day, fathers. Your children are a gift from the Lord, and you are to steward that gift with the help of Jesus.

_____ **VAMP** _____
Alright last one.

Vs. 22 “Slaves, obey your human masters in everything. Don't work only while being watched, as people-pleasers, but work wholeheartedly, fearing the Lord. **Chapter 4 verse 1...** “Masters, deal with your slaves justly and fairly since you know that you too have a **Master in heaven.**”

I know we CRINGE when we hear the word SLAVE, but we must understand this is pre-civil war and not referring to the oppression, abuse, and selling of human beings like that of the African Americans during the slave trade. Think of it as indentured servants. They lived in homes with families and worked for that particular family.

It is very similar to a live-in nanny, butler, or housekeeper. ***This text's historical and cultural context can be equivalent to employment in modern society.***

The call to employees is to obey their bosses and work wholeheartedly. Don't half haphazardly do your job. The Lord, in his grace, has given you a job even if you hate it right now, so honor him by doing your work as unto Him. Don't cheat the system. Don't cut corners.



Show up on time. Show up, prepare, and be ready to go.

Bosses/supervisors/business owners, treat your employees just like they are image bearers of God and not your property, for you too, have a boss and one day will stand before Him and give an account for how you have treated those, He has entrusted to you.

Regardless of whether you're an employee or an employer, you have to clothe yourself in the character of Christ, put on love, do your work as unto the Lord, and treat people justly.

Conclusion:

Alright, we made it through, ya'll. And here's the truth. This is a lot of work—hard work. You won't do any of this perfectly. You will forget to put these things on. You will fail. You will mess up. Some of you messed up on the way to church this morning. Some of you last night. And in your failure, the truth is... you have help!

Personal Story: My two-year-old has become independent and likes to get himself dressed and put his clothes and shoes on by himself. So often, he puts his underwear on backward, and I have to say, *“Other side.”* He repeats, *“Other side,”* and fixes it. He'll put his pants on backward, and I must tell him the other side. He takes his pants off and puts them on the right way.

The same goes for his shoes. Sometimes, he puts them on the wrong foot, and I have to say, “Judah, that's not the right foot; other foot.” He fixes it. ***But there are a lot of times when Judah will sit down and just say, “Help me Daddy, help me. I need help.”***

As his father, I am delighted because my son needs and desires my help. And just like a good father, I bend down to help him put his shoes or clothes on right.

In the same way, when you and I put on the wrong things, fail to take off the things of this world, treat others poorly, struggle to forgive, mess up in our marriages, get it wrong with our kids, and screw up at work. We can just sit down like a two-year-old and say, ***“Daddy, help me. I need help.”***

The Father is delighted to help you. He walks over to you, gets low, and helps you. He reminds you that you have the power of Christ's resurrection living in you, so look to Jesus. It's Jesus who perfectly clothed himself in all of these things and now stands ready to help us.

It's the power of Jesus that can help us **live like Christ in our everyday relationships.**

Would you bow your heads?

The invitation is open this morning to approach the throne of grace and find help in times of need.



Where do you need help this morning? Is it in a friendship? Is it patience with a friend? Is it struggling with unforgiveness? Have you given up on a relationship too soon? Is it your marriage? Your children? Your job? Where do you need help? Jesus is ready to help you. So, I want you to begin asking Him for help right now. At your seats begin asking God to help you.

PRAY

We are going to move into a time of communion. We are going to do it a little differently than normal. Our teams are going to come forward now as they pass the plates.

Communion was instituted by Jesus with his disciples. He took some bread and a cup. The bread is symbolic of His body that was broken. The cup is symbolic of the blood that was shed for the forgiveness of sins. And He says do this as often in remembrance of me.

Communion is reserved for those who are followers of Jesus. If you are here this morning and you don't follow Jesus, we are going to ask you to let the plates pass you by. Communion is also reserved for those who are repentant. Paul warns us to not take communion in an unworthy manner. Meaning, that if you have some sin that you have not confessed and repented of, you need to do so before taking communion.

Ask the Spirit to show you whatever it is, and then repent before you take communion.

As you take communion this morning, **reflect on these words that our worship leader is going to sing over you.**

Noah says, “In light of who Jesus is and what He’s done for us, let’s stand and sing this song as a reminder that we have victory in Jesus and can live out what He calls us to.