

# Compass

BETHLEHEM BAPTIST CHURCH  
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## COLOSSIANS 3: 12-17 (NIV)

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. <sup>13</sup> Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. <sup>14</sup> And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. <sup>15</sup> Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup> Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. <sup>17</sup> And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

## HOW DO WE FOCUS ON LOVE IN TODAY'S WORLD?

Many of us were told by our elders that if you know better, then you ought to do better. In the early part of Chapter 3, Paul, our writer, encourages us to set our minds on things above, not on the things the world would tell us are good. In doing so, we also begin to get a blueprint on how we should live. But how do we do this when everything around us on the TV, internet, and what we hear from those around us tells us differently? It is if God wants us to completely forget everything we know! How to live, how to think, how to act, how to talk...what's next?

As difficult as this seems, as Paul (and Timothy) continue in Colossians 3:12-17, we are persuaded, as believers, to consider ourselves as God's chosen people. That should make us think of ourselves as being different. Not only are we different, but we also know the source of our salvation. As this was not by our own doing, we should be grateful and humble for what God has done in our lives.

When this becomes our focus, we can't help but think and act differently. It becomes easier to extend grace and patience when we consider what has been given to us. Likewise, this should move us to share God's goodness in our actions and words. Let this be what we reflect on during our quiet time this week.

## IN WHAT WAYS DOES MY WALK DEMONSTRATE MY FAITH?

It may seem impractical for us to always do the right thing. That is because we are attempting to do so on our own. In verse 17, we are instructed to let our reasoning be in the name of Jesus. If He is our motivation, then our actions will always be in the right direction.



## SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON FOR

MAY 17, 2026

## SUNDAY SCHOOL TITLE

CULTIVATING  
GENEROSITY

## SUNDAY SCHOOL SCRIPTURE

Deuteronomy 24:14–21;  
Ephesians 6:5–9; 1  
Timothy 6:17–19

## MAIN THOUGHT

When thou cuttest down  
thine harvest in thy field,  
and hast forgot a sheaf in  
the field, thou shalt not go  
again to fetch it: it shall be  
for the stranger, for the  
fatherless, and for the  
widow: that the LORD thy  
God may bless thee in all  
the work of thine hands.  
Deuteronomy 24:19, KJV

## CLOSING PRAYER

Dear God, allow my words  
and deeds offered to others  
to reflect the grace and  
mercy you have already given  
to me. In Jesus' name, Amen.