

sermon notes

July 19, 2026 | Pastor Tony Caffey, Messiah Bible Church | **Preeminence**
"The Selfless Life of the New Self" | **Colossians 3:12–17**

Seven Virtues of the New Self:

- 1) _____ (3:12)
- 2) _____ (3:13)
- 3) _____ (3:14)
- 4) _____ (3:15a)
- 5) _____ (3:15b)
- 6) _____ (3:16)
- 7) _____ to Christ (3:17)

Questions for Further Application of God's Word:

GO DEEPER

Compare and contrast the vices of 3:5–11 with the virtues of 3:12–17. How do they relate to the "put on" and "put off" language of 3:9, 12, and 14? Are these lists exhaustive? If not, what are some other vices and virtues given in the NT (e.g., see Gal 5:16–26)?

Paul emphasizes the importance of forgiveness in the Christian community in 3:13. Why is forgiveness so important for lasting relationships? How does forgiveness flow from what God has done for us?

Paul emphasizes the importance of love in the Christian community in 3:14. How does the NT define Christian love without compromising truth? See 1 Corinthians 13 for help with this. How does 1 Corinthians 13 showcase love as the preeminent virtue in the Christian life?

GET PERSONAL

Paul commands us to let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts (3:15). Do you have the peace of Christ? What if your life is unpeaceful and you are anxious? How do you allow peace to rule in situations like that?

Paul makes a rare reference to singing in 3:16. Why is singing important in the community of faith? Where do we see singing and music and praise emphasized in the OT and the NT? How does singing relate to worship? How should singing be incorporated as a corporate act of worship in the church?

Take another look at 3:17. Consider the things you do for Christ. Do you do them with a worshipful mindset? Do you do them for God's glory and "in the name of Jesus Christ"? Do you do them with a heart of gratitude to God?

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

Paul uses the language of "one another" (Greek: ἀλλήλων) to describe the church family. He also narrows the focus on Christians by his statement in verse 12: "God's chosen ones, holy and beloved." Is there someone within your church family who has a complaint against you? Is there someone within your church family against whom you have a complaint? If so, how might forgiveness and reconciliation be accomplished in that matter?

ADVANCED QUESTIONS FOR DEEPER STUDY

What is the "word (λόγος) of Christ" in 3:16? Is this a reference to Scripture, the gospel, or something else? How might the "word of Christ" dwell in you richly? How might it be reflected in the songs we sing and the lessons we teach?