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# THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

*Colossians 3:12-17*  
Lesson #12  
"Repentance #2"  
04/5/2026

1

*John 13:35*  
"By this all men will know  
that you are My disciples, if you ..."

## have love for one another.

The sign is NOT:

- a change in my outer circumstances
- a personal power through prayer
- a dramatic emotional experience
- a renewal of social justice

34 A new commandment I give to you, that you **love one another**, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another."

2

**The Body of Christ is a family, team, orchestra.**

The church is the Body of Christ, but only when the pieces are **attached to one another and the head.**

**No one wants to listen to an orchestra that is out of tune.**

3

**Our witness to this world is a loving community based on seeing life from a spiritual rather than material perspective.**

*Colossians 3*  
"1 If then you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 **Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.** 3 **For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.**"

*2 Corinthians 12:10*  
"Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for **when I am weak, then I am strong.**"

4

**Last week - Repentance #1**

1. **Idolatry is seeking life in wrong places: through fleshly passions and at the expense of others.**
2. **Hypocrisy is limiting God's grace only to people like us or who should be like us in (the flesh).**

**This week - Repentance #2**

Water baptism is about conversion. The Lord's Supper is about communion.

**Both are symbols of REPENTANCE.**

5

*Colossians 3*  
"9 Do not lie to **one another**, since **you laid aside** the old self with its evil practices, 10 and **have put on** the new self who is **being renewed** to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him

12 And so, as those who **have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on** a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; 13 **bearing with one another**, and **forgiving each other**, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you. 14 And beyond all these things **put on love**, which is the perfect bond of unity. 15 And let the **peace** of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be **thankful**. 16 Let the word of Christ richly dwell **within you**, with all **wisdom** teaching and admonishing **one another** with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with **thankfulness** in your hearts to God. 17 And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, **giving thanks** through Him to God the Father."

6

## Six things should get our attention:

- **Remember** that you are chosen, holy, & loved.

Paul begins his letters in **the indicative mood** (know who you are “in Christ”) and then moves to the imperative mood (be true to your new self).

- **Relationships** within the family of God.
- **Responses** to diversity, conflict, & complaints.
- **Reconciliation** via agape (love) for community.
- **Reinforcement** via “wisdom” and encouragement
- **Reverence** via “thankfulness”

7

- **Relationships** within the family of God.

“13 bearing with **one another**, and forgiving **each other**”



not clones  
of one template



not body parts  
disconnected



not a class system  
of value differences

The church = different functions that support each other to make a unit that is greater than the sum of its parts.



8

- **Responses** to diversity, conflict, & complaints.

12 ... **put on** a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; 13 **bearing with one another**, and **forgiving each other**, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.

1. **Expect** tension with unity AND diversity.  
We need both to be the Body of Christ.
2. Conflicts can lead to **compassion or combat**.
3. View conflicts as an **opportunity** to love, learn, teach, and show that we can see beyond them.
4. The **Image of God** is love, forgiveness, and ministry in managing diversity.

9

- **Reconciliation** with agape (love) for community.

“14 And beyond all these things **put on love**, which is the perfect bond of unity. 15 And let the **peace** of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body;”

1. **Love (agape)** is the **foundation** for the Image of God and authentic community.
2. **Inner Peace** from our security in our relationship with God is the platform for love.
3. It is always **FIRST between us and God**, and then between us, them, or it.

10

- **Reinforce** via “wisdom” and encouragement

16 Let the **word of Christ** richly dwell **within you**, with all **wisdom** teaching and admonishing **one another** with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with **thankfulness** in your hearts to God.:

1. The word of Christ is his **example, and message, via his indwelling Spirit**.
2. We should **pray for “wisdom”**, not revelation or for a sign in decision making. (Jas.1:5)
3. **Shared “service of worship” experiences** will develop and demonstrate our unity.

11

- **Reverence** via “thankfulness”

“17 And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, **giving thanks** through Him to God the Father.”

1. Notice how often **“one another”** and **“giving thanks”** are mentioned in 3:12-17.
2. We should radiate God’s image in what we **do** as well as in what we **say**.
3. We should not overlook what Paul does not mention in this passage: evangelism, cultural reform, or emotional experiences. **OR MAYBE THIS IS BIBLICAL “DISCIPLE MAKING”**.

12

*Take our baptism seriously.  
God does!*

*This is our spiritual  
peace & power as  
Anointed, Alien,  
Ambassadors  
for Christ in a  
broken world.*

13

***Temptation** is often a  
matter of who we listen to and  
how we choose to see things.*

*(our psychological unfinished business,  
defensive strategies, worldly values,  
or the Spirit of God in us.)*

*The ministry of the  
Spirit is to "lead us  
into all the truth" of  
the grace and glory  
of God in Christ.*

*The way of Satan  
is to peddle  
shame, blame,  
distortion, and  
destruction.*

14

**Pain is:**

- Our stepping stone to the Cross.
- God's cornerstone at the Cross.
- Satan's stumbling stone after the Cross.

*If we get this,  
we need never  
face this.*

15

***How Paul turned  
mourning into  
dancing?***

*He took his  
baptism seriously  
and so must we.*

16

*We take our baptism  
seriously*

not when we see self & each other in the context of the Law, and taste **Death**

when we see self & each other in the context of the Cross, and find **Life**

17

*"putting off" the old "putting on" the new.*

Natural birth

Spiritual birth

Our old sin nature in Adam

Our new nature in Christ

18

### *What should we learn from this text?*

- ✓ Being true to ourselves, starts with knowing who we are “in Christ” with his indwelling Spirit.
- ✓ The best way to “make disciples” is to be one and show it in our responses & relationships.
- ✓ H.S. power is seen in unity **WITHIN DIVERSITY**.
- ✓ We need to encourage diversity on minor issues with inner peace & wisdom.
- ✓ One of the most powerful acts of worship in community formation is **THANKFULNESS**.

19



20