

**COURAGEOUS FAMILIES  
SINGLE IS FOR EVERYONE  
COLOSSIANS 3:12-17**

**INTRODUCTION:**

- Illustration
- People base their lives on identity: athlete, veteran, work, hobby.
- “I’m single!” Single is for everyone. A single identity. You need this before you get married.
- Ken Hemphill - *Mirror, Mirror on the Wall*: Seven building blocks we need to build our self identity:
  - A sense of inherent worth.
  - A knowledge that I am secure.
  - A strong self concept.
  - A sense of purpose.
  - An awareness that I belong.
  - A sense of empowerment.
  - A feeling of personal competence.
- Colossians speaks to our identity.
  - 3:1-4, FAITH – vertical relationship
  - 3:5-17, FELLOWSHIP – horizontal
  - 3:18-4:1, FAMILY
- Colossians 3:12-17
- “Therefore” – live up to who you are.
- 3 gifts from God which secure our identity.
- **ROBE OF CHRIST**
- Conditions to wear the robe. V.12, “put on” – “clothe”
- I have been chosen to wear the robe.
- Joseph
- Aaron priestly tribe
- Prodigal son
- We have the robe of Christ.
- I have been set apart. “Holy”

- For the Lord.
  - He desires to have fellowship with me.
  - Seek Him only.
  - Know Him.
  - Obey Him.
  - For the Lord's work.
  - What are you doing now?
  - Do others see you are set apart?
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- I am loved.
  - Someone loves me!
  - A great price was paid.
  - Characteristics of the robe. V.12-14
  - Compassion – deep from within. “Heartfelt”
  - Kindness – attitude and action. Good Samaritan
  - Humility – Opposite of pride and arrogance. This word did not exist in Classical Greek writing. They did not believe in it.
  - Gentleness – Meekness, an obedient submissiveness to God often in the face of opposition. Power under control. Tamed animal.
  - Patience – Longsuffering, long-temper. Bearing an injustice without revenge.
  - Accepting one another – Enduring, putting up with others when they fail to meet your expectations.
  - Forgiveness – He is speaking to the offended. Don't wait for the other person to apologize. Anyone can hold grudges. Christians forgive regardless.
  - Matthew 6:12, “Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.”
  - Matthew 18:22, “I tell you, not as many as seven . . . but 70 times seven.”
  - Matthew 18:35, “So My heavenly Father will also do to you if each of you does not forgive his brother from his heart.”
  - Christ set the example. V.13, “Just as the Lord has forgiven you, so also you must forgive.”
  - Love – agape
  - V.14, “Above all.” The most important virtue.
  - “Bond” – belt, sash that held the outfit together. It ties it all together.

- “Unity” - Love is the perfect virtue to unify the body of Christ.
- Romans 13:10, “Love does no wrong to a neighbor. Love, therefore, is the fulfillment of the law.”
- The love of Christ is the robe we wear.
- **RULE OF CHRIST**
- His peace is the umpire.
- V.15, “And let the peace of the Messiah, to which you were also called in one body, control your hearts.”
- “Control” – athletic word, umpire, referee, judge, to call a decision, rule.
- How do I know I am following God’s will? Do I have the peace of Christ.
- Let the peace of Christ be the umpire and make the decisions for your life.
- Anytime you have a decision to make, ask yourself these two questions:
- Is it consistent with the fact that Jesus and I are on the same side?
- Will it leave me with a deep and abiding rest in my heart?
- His peace affects me.
- “Control your hearts.”
- Sins are forgiven – past
- God is in control, he rules today – present
- Nothing will separate me from the love of Christ – future
- His peace affects me and the church.
- “In one body.” Body of Christ.
- If we have peace in our hearts, we will have peace with others in the church.
- Warning: You can have a false peace in your heart.
- Peace alone is not sufficient evidence that you are following the will of God. Few exceptions
- If you don’t have the peace of Christ it will create problems in the church.
- The peace of Christ in your heart will be affirmed by others believers truly seeking the will of God.
- His peace produces a thankful heart.
- “Be thankful.”
- Lack of peace results from an ungrateful heart.
- Is it hard for you to be thankful in your current situation?
- Some of you may be wondering if there is a man in your future while others are wondering if there is

any future in your man.

- Are you living under the rule of Christ? Is there peace
- **RECORD OF CHRIST**
- The Word of Christ is to dwell within me.
- V.16, "And let the message about the Messiah dwell richly among you, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom."
- "Dwell" – to take residence
- How?
- Hear the Word – Ezekiel 37:4
- Heed the Word – Matthew 13:9
- Handle the Word rightly – 2 Timothy 2:15
- Hide the Word in your heart – Psalm 119:11
- Hold the Word before others as truth – Philippians 2:16
- The Word of Christ gives me wisdom.
- "In all wisdom."
- 1:9, Paul told believers he prayed for wisdom.
- 2:3, He said wisdom was in Christ.
- Now he tells them to be wise in the way instruct or encourage one another.
- Teaching – communicating truth effectively
- Admonishing – strong encouragement that is practical and moral.
- The Word of Christ determines how I worship.
- "Singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs."
- Psalm – O.T Psalms
- Hymns – Songs of praise to God usually about Him
- Spiritual songs – Songs of what God has done for us. Expressing ourselves to God
- All Christian songs are to be centered in the Word of Christ
- "With gratitude in your hearts to God."
- The reason I can sing is because of what God has done through Jesus Christ.
- Psalm 40:3, "He has put a new song in my mouth."
- He is the audience – "to God"
- The Word of Christ is empowered by His name.

- V.17, "And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, giving thanks to God the Father through Him."
- I live under the authority of Jesus Christ.
- I am empowered by the name of Christ.
- I am to speak and act consistently with the nature of Christ.

**CONCLUSION:**

- My identity is only in the robe, rule and record of Christ.
- 3:11, "Christ is all and in all."