

Discussion Guide

Opening Prayer

Thank the Lord for new life in Christ and ask Him to bring about the characteristics of Christian behavior for the sake of unity and to the glory of God.

Recap

In Colossians 3:12-17, God's people are called to put on the behaviors of the new life. These behaviors have their power in the love of God for us and flow to others. In this love, which is established in God's electing love and calling, the believer is now free to pursue peace with others and to live all of life to the glory of God and in a way that brings honor to the name of Christ.

Understanding the Text

1. What significance does being chosen by God have in this passage? How is it foundational for putting on the behaviors of the new life?
2. How does our forgiveness by God instruct us in how to forgive others?
3. How does our calling "into one body" relate to our unity? What place does God's purpose to call us into His body have in the necessity of unity?
4. What is the primary application of verse 16's call to teach and admonish each other in song?
5. What is meant by "in the name of the Lord" in verse 17?

Practical Application

1. Which of the new life characteristics do you find most difficult to put on?
2. Do you ever think of congregational singing as means of teaching and admonishing one another? What implications for our singing arise from that command?
3. When challenged to forgive someone, do you consider how much you have been forgiven by God?
4. Are you ruled by the peace of God in your relationships with others? How can you grow in this area?
5. What place has the truth of Christ in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs had in your life? Do you joyfully participate in singing in the assembly?
6. Are there areas that you cannot honestly say that you are doing them in the name of the Lord? How can you change this in 2026?

God Has More to Say:

The Virtues of the New life:

- Galatians 5:22-23
- Ephesians 4:1-3
- 1 Corinthians 13:1-8

Forgiveness:

- Matthew 18:21-35
- Ephesians 4:32
- Colossians 1:13–14

Thankfulness:

- 2 Cor. 4:15 15
- 2 Cor. 9:15
- Romans 1:21
- 1 Thessalonians 5:18

Word Centered Worship:

- Ephesians 5:19
- Revelation 5:9
- Revelation 15:3