

Lesson 23  
Colossians 3:12-14

Noel R. Vincent  
16-Dec-2023

\*\*\* Start Recorder \*\*\*



**Announcements:**

**A. Iron+Men Objectives:** *Iron Sharpening Iron (Pr 27:17)*

- Bible study and small groups is what we're about:
  - i. Connecting with God: through the Word and prayer.
  - ii. Connecting with each other: through encouragement and accountability.
- Bring your Bibles and come ready to study.
- Bring a notebook or a prayer journal for small groups.

**B. Small Groups Forming Now:**

- Find your small group's table as you come in, and sit with your group.
- We need 2 more small group leaders; form your own Band of Brothers.
- Please sign up for a small group, if you haven't joined one yet.
- You may be invited to join a group, but you can choose your own group, too.

**C. Embracing Destiny Foundation (EDF):**

- Meets in 2 weeks – first annual Christmas Party!
- We now have 20+ boys from both homes.
- Need several volunteer table leaders and encouragers.

**D. Building the Ministry:** Each of us is here because we were invited.

- Make a *habit* of inviting men to join us.
- Invite your church buddies and other men of the church.
- Invite your dad, adult sons, uncles, cousins, friends, neighbors, and co-workers.
- Invite any adult male believers without a church home.

**E. Need an Iron+Men Volunteer:** *Communications & Small Groups*

- Manage small group rosters.
- Reminder texts, special communications, etc.
- One-page, bi-weekly newsletter (items posted to website).
- Time availability: 1-2 hours a week.

**Colossians 3:12:14**

**Colossians 3:12 (NOTES)**

\* “as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved” - That is, since you have been chosen by God, set apart for His purposes, born again (vs. 11 - "renewal"), and are loved by Him, let the fruit of His Spirit be produced in you and flow out of you.

\* “compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience” This is the fruit of the Spirit who indwells every believer.

Ga 5:22-26 "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. 24 Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. 26 Let us not become boastful, challenging one another, envying one another."

\* We mustn't allow our pride to lead to boastfulness; challenging one another, or the desires of our flesh to lead to envying one another - all of which hinders our spiritual growth.

Discussion: Does spiritual fruit (not spiritual gifts) simply appear in the heart and life of every believer beginning at conversion, or does it have to be produced, and if so, how and by whom?

\* Spiritual fruit is the product of sanctification (the ongoing process): being conformed into the image of Christ; becoming more Christlike in character, thought, and action.

\* Sanctification is the work of the Father, the Son (Word), the Holy Spirit in our lives, which evidence is the evidence of our conversion; our changed lives.

\* The Father - Jn 17:17 “[Father - implied] Sanctify them in the truth [Christ - implied]; Your word is truth.”

\* The Son - Ep 5:25-27 “Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, 26 so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, 27 that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless.”

\* The Holy Spirit - 2Th 2:13 “But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth.”

\* You and Me - As we’ve learned in this Colossians study, we must be willing participants in our sanctification - praying, studying and meditating, resisting and avoiding, loving, trusting, etc.

#2Ti 3:16-17 “All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; 17 so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.”

\* In this text, Paul mentions 5 fruits of the Spirit:

\* compassion - pity and tenderness expressed toward others who are suffering or in misery. (Gr. - *splanchna oiktirmou*)

\* kindness - sweetness of disposition, acts of generosity and graciousness. (Gr. - *chrestotes*)

\* humility - humble disposition, not thinking lowly of ourselves (which is false humility), but rather seeing ourselves rightly, for who we really are - warts and all, so to speak - putting others first, seeking their benefit along with our own. (Gr. - *tapeinophrosyne*)

Php 2:3 “ ... with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves.”

\* gentleness - not self-assertive or demanding of ones own preferences and will, but rather considerate of others and willing to make concessions. (Gr. - *prautes*)

\* patience - longsuffering, self-restraint, able to endure insult and injury without retaliation. (Gr. - *makrothymia*)

## Colossians 3:13 (NOTES)

\* “bearing with one another” - Putting up with one another. To suffer, forbear, endure or stand up under the weight of the faults and annoying traits of others, their mistakes, their sins, and not seeking vengeance. (Gr. - anechomenoi)

1Th 5:14-15 “1Th 5:15 See that no one repays another with evil for evil, but always seek after that which is good for one another and for all people.”

\* “forgiving one another, whoever has a complaint against anyone” - Keep in mind that this is an instruction for the Church; it is written to believers. Bearing and forgiving are ways of achieving reconciliation, unity, harmony, and peace in the Body.

Mt 18:15-17 “If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother. 16 But if he does not listen to you, take one or two more with you, so that by the mouth of two or three witnesses every fact may be confirmed. 17 If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.”

Lk 7:3-4 "Be on your guard! If your brother sins, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. 4 And if he sins against you seven times a day, and returns to you seven times, saying, I repent, you shall forgive him."

\* “Forgiving one another” does not mean that we should not seek to admonish the unruly or not seek confession and repentance, for surely we should. Correction, confession, repentance, and forgiveness are each essential components of reconciliation and unity.

1Jn 1:8-9 "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness"

\* Correction, confession, repentance, and forgiveness are also expressions of love, which is the greatest of all the virtues.

#1Co 13:13

He 12:6 “Heb 12:6 FOR THOSE WHOM THE LORD LOVES HE DISCIPLINES, AND HE SCOURGES EVERY SON WHOM HE RECEIVES.”

1Th 5:14 We urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with everyone.

\* Conversely, withholding correction and reproof is an expression of hate.

Le 19:17 "You shall not hate your fellow countryman in your heart; you may surely reprove your neighbor, but shall not incur sin because of him."

Pr 13:24 "He who withholds his rod hates his son, But he who loves him disciplines him diligently."

\* "just as the Lord forgave you" - (i.e. - "in the same way") Just as when you repented and placed your faith in Christ God did not hold to your account the sins you committed against Him, so also you should not hold against their accounts the sins other believers commit against you, if they repent of their sins.

\* The ultimate point of forgiveness is reconciliation and unity. It is a means to and end, a step in the process. We can't unilaterally forgive and expect there to be unity when the offending party has not repented; the offending party has a role in his forgiveness. In some cases, people will refuse to repent over their sin. In such cases, we must have confidence that we have sufficiently pursued peace. We must not make an issue of their unrepentant sin to the point that it destroys peace in the Body.

Heb 12:14 Pursue peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no one will see the Lord.

Ro 12:18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.

"The chief danger of the 20th century will be religion without the Holy Ghost, Christianity without Christ, forgiveness without repentance, salvation without regeneration, politics without God, and Heaven without Hell." - William Booth, founder of The Salvation Army

### **Colossians 3:14 (NOTES)**

\* "**put on love**" - Or, in the KJV, "the bond of perfectness." The word translated here as "love" or in the KJV as "charity," is the Greek word, "agape." This love is the currency of unity. It's how we pay for it, establish it, create it and preserve it.

#1Co 13:4-7

1Co 13:4 Love is patient, love is kind [and] is not jealous; love does not brag [and] is not arrogant, 5 does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong [suffered, 6 does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; 7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

\* **"which is the perfect bond of unity"** or "the bond of perfectness" (KJV) The bond of unity is love. It is what keeps us together as the body of Christ. Anywhere in the world we can have the fellowship of the Holy Spirit in unity because we have a Holy Spirit initiated love of the brethren. Unity is the product of agape love. The church is the body of Christ. The Lord puts a premium on the body being unified, without discord, at peace and working in unison, not only in our local church, but among all believers around the world.

\* Jesus, in what may truly be called the "Lord's Prayer," (or His high priestly prayer) prayed for the church, petitioning the Father specifically for unity.  
#John 17:20-23

Jn 17:20 "I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word; 21 that they may all be one; even as You, Father, [are] in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me. 22" The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one; 23 I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me.

\* Disunity in the body of Christ harms its mission, which is to spread the gospel. When there is discord, we cannot effectively represent the gospel and faithfully serve the Lord. If we are to be obedient in our mission, then we must be obedient in unity.  
#Mt 28:19, 2Co 5:18-20

Mt 28:19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,

2Co 5:18 Now all [these] things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, 19 namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation. 20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

\* When we are divided, we are ineffective and fail in our mission. People who create disunity, left unchecked, can become cold, brash, unruly, and tyrannical. I attended a church once where a woman in a prominent ministry position was such a person. She would raise her voice if you went into her area, she was territorial, inflexible, and unteachable. She would boss people around, make demands, throw tantrums and so on to get things the way she wanted them.

\* No one was willing to confront her until the complaints became so numerous, she was released from her ministry position by one of the staff pastors. She was never dealt with biblically by anyone and the body was not served at all. I am ashamed to say that I was one of the complainers. Had she been dealt with according to biblical principles, she might have made a fine ministry leader. Instead, she is now the butt of jokes, and no longer serving in meaningful ministry.

\* And let's not forget the people who are victims of those who create disunity. For them, it can make the bitter, cynical, defeated and even vengeful if it is not resolved. This is not what God expects of His children.

#Mr 3:24-25, Php 2:1-4

Mr 3:24 "If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. 25" If a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand.

Php 2:1 Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, 2 make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. 3 Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; 4 do not [merely] look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.

\* God has commanded, both the offender and the offeree to seek and secure reconciliation when there is strife, discord and disunity in the body.

#Mt 5:23-24, 18:15-17

Mt 5:23 "Therefore if you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, 24 leave your offering there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering.

Mt 18:15 "If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother. 16 "But if he does not listen [to you,] take one or two more with you, so that BY THE MOUTH OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES EVERY FACT MAY BE CONFIRMED. 17 "If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.

\* From the #Mt 18:17 passage, why remove him from the body? Discuss. Because unity in the body is paramount. If someone cannot be corrected and reconciled, then the person must be removed from the body. This is God's truth. If a person will not be corrected and reconciled to God, he, too, will be removed from the presence of the Lord for all eternity.

**Discussion:** How does an understanding types as referred to by Paul here in this passage help us in our daily lives? How was it intended to help the Colossians?

- It teaches us about our salvation.
- It shows that God's redemptive plan remains unchanged from the beginning.
- It gives us confidence in the veracity of the Scriptures.
- It prevents us from considering or trusting other so-called holy books.
- It protects us from being controlled by others through false teaching.
- It gives us hope that unfulfilled types (Resurrection & Return) will come about.

**Application:** Were there any new concepts you picked up today? Is there anything you're having trouble accepting in these doctrines? Did anything stand out that may prompt you to do further study? Do you feel confident that you can explain the doctrines of deity and trinity to your family, other believers, nonbelievers?

**Closing Benediction:** Jude 1:24-25 *"Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory, blameless with great joy, to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority before all time and now and forever. Amen."*

**Closing Prayer**

**Small Groups**