



# WOODLAND HEIGHTS

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CHRISTIAN CHURCH

## Dear Younger Me

### Part #2 – Learn the Value of Majoring in Mercy

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#### Small Group Discussion Guide on Colossians 3:12-17

##### Woodland Heights Christian Church Core Value Connection

This sermon on Colossians 3:12-17 aligns with the core value of **Discipleship** at Woodland Heights Christian Church. Discipleship is about growing into faithful followers who prioritize time with Christ, seek His presence daily, and live with an eternal perspective.

This sermon challenges you to reflect on Paul's call for Christians to "put on" God-honoring virtues and to choose mercy amid conflicts, hurts, and everyday challenges. The sermon's Big Idea, "Majoring in Mercy Changes How You See and Serve... Make Each Day Count for Christ," challenges Christians to live out mercy together, aligning with our church's mission to teach believers to reflect the love of Christ and live in a manner worthy of the Gospel. (Philippians 1:27)

#### Section #1 – ENCOUNTER

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##### "Observing God's Word"

Imagine your family gathered around the dinner table after a long day, with everyone sharing stories of kindness shown or received—like helping a sibling with homework or forgiving a friend's mistake. In the midst of laughter and lessons, a quiet moment arises to thank God for His endless mercy toward us. In Colossians 3:12-17, Paul paints a picture of the Christian life you're your daily wardrobe, urging us to "put on" clothes of compassion, kindness, and peace that make our lives a reflection of God's love. As you read this text, notice how these virtues bind us in harmony with fellow Christians, reminding us that mercy isn't just a solo act but a rhythm that draws all believers closer to Christ and each other.

Let's start our study by anchoring ourselves in Scripture. Read Colossians 3:12-17 (ESV), letting God's Word sink in. Picture the scene: Paul writing to young believers, encouraging them to live out their new identity in Christ through practical acts of mercy and unity.

##### Core Questions

- What do you notice about the virtues Paul lists, like compassion or forgiveness? How might they play out in your daily life?
- What are key words or phrases that stand out to you, like "put on" or "peace of Christ"? Share why you think they are significant.
- What does this passage teach you about God's character—such as His mercy toward us and His call for us to show it to others?

## Section #2 – EXPLORE

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### “Understanding the Passage and Sermon”

Let’s unpack Paul’s roadmap for mercy with questions that connect the sermon’s insights to our life. Read the quotes and lessons, and reflect on them.

**Quote** – “We delight to praise what we enjoy because the praise not merely expresses but completes the enjoyment.” – **C.S. Lewis**

- What does this quote from C.S. Lewis teach you about letting thankfulness and praise flow from a merciful heart? Share one way you can praise God this week.

#### ***Lesson #1 – Application: Put on Mercy to Make Your Ordinary Moments a Ministry Moment (Colossians 3:12-13)***

Imagine that you are getting ready for a big adventure, packing a suitcase not with clothes, but with “heart gear” like compassion and patience to handle any bumps along the way. Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive (Colossians 3:12-13). The sermon highlights our identity as chosen and beloved, urging us to actively “put on” these virtues through forgiveness and kindness.

- How does this passage inspire you to apply mercy in everyday moments, like forgiving the mistakes of others?
- Share a memory where showing compassion or patience brought you closer with other Christians.
- In what ways does this encourage you as a Christian – maybe in how you handle arguments or help others?

#### ***Lesson #2 – Anchor All Your Actions in the Love of Christ (Colossians 3:14)***

Picture your family and friends as a team building a fort, where love is the strong rope that ties all the blankets and pillows together, making it sturdy and safe. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony (Colossians 3:14). Paul emphasizes love as the binding force that perfects our virtues, creating unity in our lives and relationships.

- What does this teach you about using love to hold our acts of mercy together, even on tough days?
- How can we help each other “put on love” to avoid letting complaints divide us?

**Quote** – “The greatest danger in life is permitting the urgent things to crowd out the important.”  
– **Charles E. Hummel**

#### ***Lesson #3 – Prioritize: Live with Peace, Praise, and Purpose (Colossians 3:15-17)***

Think of your friends and family as explorers on a treasure hunt, prioritizing a map of peace, a compass of God’s Word, and a goal of doing everything for Jesus to find true joy. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts... Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly... And whatever you do... do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus (Colossians 3:15-17). Jesus calls us to let His peace rule, His Word dwell, and His name guide our actions with thankfulness.

- What does this reveal to you about prioritizing mercy through peace and praise in your daily routines?
- Share ideas for how you can make God's Word and thankfulness a bigger part of your life.

## Section #3 – EMBRACE

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### "Applying God's Word"

Go deeper into the Word of God by applying what you've learned to your life today. Reflect on these action steps and discuss how you can live out the truths from Colossians 3:12-17. Talk about these action steps with family and friends, maybe creating a "mercy jar" to note acts of kindness throughout the week.

- **Identify Your Opportunities for Mercy:** As a Christian, name some situations – like school conflicts or chores – where you can show compassion or forgiveness. Pick one step you can take this week, like starting a "mercy challenge" to encourage one another.
- **Practice Mercy Together:** Like the believers in Colossae, let's examine our hearts as Christians. Is there a complaint or hurt we need to forgive? Spend a moment in prayer, asking God to help you "put on" love – share one thing you're thankful for.
- **Share God's Mercy with Others:** Paul's teaching transformed lives through mercy. As a Christian, commit to showing kindness to someone this week, like helping a neighbor. Brainstorm fun ways, like baking cookies with a note about God's love.
- **Memorize and Reflect:** Learn the memory verse – Colossians 3:15 (ESV): "And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful." Make it a game: say it with actions and share how it inspires you to live mercifully.

### Closing Challenge and Prayer

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As a group, pray for one another to hear and respond to God's call for majoring in mercy in your life. Thank God for His mercy and ask Him to help you major in it like Christ. Encourage your fellow Christians to take one action step this week, and share how God worked. Consider inviting others to join you in attending Sunday School or a small group to keep growing in faith!