

March 19, 2010

Scripture Reading: Colossians 3:12-17

"Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus."

The words in today's reading in Colossians may be familiar to some of you. You may have heard them at a wedding. The instructions to "clothe yourselves with love" speak to our hopes and prayers for couples who join together in marriage. They are powerful and appropriate as part of a wedding service.

But they were not written (as far as we know) for a wedding service. They were written for a church -- a Christian community. Colossians 3 begins with a reminder that people who have been raised to new life in Christ Jesus are expected to "seek the things that are above." According to this chapter, when we accept the love and grace of God, we receive a new wardrobe: compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. These are clothes we wear as children of God and disciples of Jesus Christ. This new Christian wardrobe makes it possible for us to live and work together as brothers and sisters.

Whether we like it or not, God brings us together as people of God and expects us to work together. Much of the New Testament speaks to the need for unity within the church and for God's love to be the model of love with the Christian church.

Go through your Spiritual wardrobe today. See whether the new clothes God provides still fit. Are they getting worn and in need of renewal? Have you stopped wearing them? Do you only wear them on special occasions? Do you only wear them around certain people or do you wear them with everyone?

Notice that the life described in this passage is the life modeled by Jesus. In prayer, ask God to help you follow his example today.