

# Love-bound Living

## Introduction

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Any group of people that is unified by some commonality needs to have the wellbeing of the group dynamic and the wellbeing of individual relationships as their priority. Otherwise, the group really isn't unified and the relationships fall apart. There really is no group and there really are no relationships. There is only I or me.

Examples: Bands (no divas), teams (no super stars), churches (no celebrity pastors, worship leaders).

Whenever there is a group there is the potential for division. Why? Not enough time to answer that! Basically pride. "I know better. I can do better. I am better." Often demonstrated in good intentions. Often demonstrated in selfishness. As a church, as believers, we are called to something more, something higher as we live in one accord and as we live with one another. We are called to love-bound living, love that is tied up by love. What does that mean/look like?

## Ingression

It means fostering the things that promote living in one accord, and doing everything on behalf of Jesus while living with one another. The Colossian believers were rife, whether they knew it or not, with spiritual and cultural division. Paul has been pointing that out and correcting the thinking behind that. Now he is going to tell them what love-bound living, the kind of living we are called to today, looks like, by dishing out some directives to implement.

## Inspiration

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Review Systemic Christianity

Good Start - Personally, spiritually. Need reminders.

Dedicated to the Task - Paul and others were in chains for the gospel, but with joy because of it's fruit in them. Should motivate us. Purpose - [2:6-7](#).

Trying to dig a hole full. Completeness, freedom, peace in Jesus alone.

Not like that, like this.

Read through [3:12](#) - [4:6](#) together.

## Ingression

Systemic Christianity means fostering the things that promote living in one accord, and doing all on behalf of Jesus while living with one another. In other words, love-bound living. How do we do that? How do we have that? By implementing these directives.

# One accord - Put on attributes that break down barriers and build up the body.

3:12-14 [2]

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## Ideation

### Instruction, Illustration

3:12 **Therefore, as the elect of God** - chosen. **holy** - set apart, dedicated thing. **beloved** - agape (describe), flavor is that you are now beloved as the result of past actions. Whose? Not yours, Jesus. **put on** - the directive, seen before. **tender mercies** - “bowels of compassion,” **have a soft spot for each other**. **kindness** - not so much kind acts but a kind attitude. **meekness** - [3] **Andre the Giant**. Aristotle, the middle ground between getting angry for no reason, and never getting angry at all. **longsuffering** - patience with people as opposed to patience with circumstances. See a pattern here? Has to do with our attitudes toward one another. These do not occur in a pseudo-spiritual or legalistic environment. These will, in fact, nullify those things.

3:13 **bearing with one another** - Putting up with. **One word picture would be two people back to back leaning on one another, one supporting the other**. **and forgiving** - “gracing” Handing over something, letting it go, freely and voluntarily. Do you do that? Forgive for what? **complaint** - something you want to blame someone else for, now or in the future. **forgave** - “graced” **So far as I know, no one has any complaints, something they want to blame others for, against each other**. If you are hanging on to those, you need to deal with them.

3:14 **put on** - again, directive. **love** - [4] **John 13:34-35**. **Wear it**. **bond of perfection** - that which binds together, a band, a ligament, **super glue!** completeness, finished project, related to Jesus’ words “It is finished.” **Love is the super glue that keeps us together as a finished thing**. **It’s the bow on the present**. **It’s the belt that ties the whole ensemble together**. **It’s the duct tape that holds everything together**. Without it we are just incomplete, dysfunctional parts. **Without it, we fall apart**.

## Implementation

This is the uniform/outfit of those who are God’s elect, His holy ones, His beloved ones. That it, us. Not because of what we have done but because of what Jesus has done. How does your outfit/uniform look?

Paul says to put off the old stuff and put on the new. Where do you get it? The HS store, and it’s all free.

## Interconnection

To foster living in one accord means to put on attributes that break down barriers and build up the body. That’s how you experience love-bound living. The next directive Paul tells us to implement is...

# One accord - Let the peace of God be the ref of your individual and collective lives. 3:15 [5]

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## Ideation

### Instruction, Illustration

3:15 Let the peace of God rule - "let rule" is the directive. An umpire or judge in sports who rules, governs the games. Contrast with 2:18. to which also you were called - invited, called out to, appointed to a position. Paul is using this sports metaphor, so lets extend it. It's as though this game was happening and you walked by the park. The coach sees you, calls to you, and invites you to take right field. You are now a part of the team, one body. As one body we have one heart, we are called collectively to let the peace of God rule in that heart. Remember divisions and diversity? be thankful - "be" is directive. In contrast to complaint but also in general. Keep on always being thankful.

### Implementation

Who or what is the ref in your life? Who makes the calls? Who has the say? Who makes the ruling? The internal conflict we experience as believers is the result of us taking the hat and whistle away from the HS and becoming the ref ourselves. On a body level it becomes a power play between people. We are directed to make the peace of God rule.

## Interconnection

To foster living in one accord means to let the peace of God be the ref of your individual and collective lives. That's how you experience love-bound living. The next directive Paul tells us to implement is...

# One accord - Make yourselves the home of the word of Christ, the home where the action is. 3:16 [6]

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## Ideation

### Instruction, Illustration

3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell - Let what? The message, the gospel, the logos. "Let dwell" is the directive. To inhabit, live in. In what/who? You! richly - like a rich person's house full of expensive stuff. How? What does that mean? Let's carry on the metaphor of a house. Both individual and collective.

in all wisdom, teaching - This is your library/study. [7] 2 Timothy 2:15, 3:16-17. An intellectual demonstration of the word dwelling richly.

admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs - not in an exclusively negative or corrective sense, but in a broader instructive sense. This is the music room of your house. Using songs

as a teaching tool, many couldn't read. The ABC song. Amazing Grace. I've Got A River of Life. Jesus Loves Me. A creative demonstration of the word dwelling richly.

singing with **grace** in your hearts to the Lord. - joyfulness, gratitude. Your general state of being in every room of your house. An emotional demonstration of the word dwelling richly.

Notice the balance - intellectual, creative, emotional. As individuals we might be stronger one than the others, but that doesn't make the others less. As a body we might be heavier with one than the others, but we need the balance. Our house should be known for being a house where all of this action is. The house with the yummy treats, the house with the hoop/games, the house with the entertainment system.

## Implementation

How do we make the word of God dwell in us richly? By getting it into us on our own and with others. By coming up with, or acquiring creative ways to learn and express it. By letting it have the emotional impact and influence it is supposed to have because it comes from the Living God.

## Interconnection

To foster living in one accord means to make yourselves the home of the word of Christ, the home where the action is. That's how you experience love-bound living. 3:12-16 had to do with the body, the community of believers, in one accord. Now we switch gears to the one another, individual relationships. First Paul lays out the directive and then gives examples of what it looks like.

One another - Do everything on behalf of Jesus, giving thanks to God as you do it.  
3:17 - 4:6 [8]

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## Ideation

### Instruction, Illustration

3:17 And whatever you do - literally and everything that anything if you do. in word or in deed - the things you say and the things you make. in the name of - in the authority of, on behalf of. giving thanks - this is the directive, not an afterthought. Continually give thanks to God the Father through Jesus as you do everything and anything you do in His name, in word or in deed. **That is Systemic Christianity!** So let's go do it! What does it mean?

Let's turn it into a question: As I do (blank) for someone else (or myself), as I say (blank) to someone else, can I give thanks to God the Father at the same time? Can I do/say so with Jesus' authority, or on His behalf? How will it reflect on Him? Oh snap!

I believe this is what Paul had in mind as he ran off this list of one-another relationships.

## Implementation

- In marriage and family, 3:18-21. [9]

- **3:18 Wives** - **submit**, imperative. Organizational term, not a qualitative or value term. It's a question of roles in relationships. Men and women of equal value, but different God-given roles. **their own** - what's causing them to submit to other men? That's the issue in context.
- **3:19 Husbands** - **love**, imperative. Agape love. **do not be bitter**, imperative. **Connect the language dots of the word**. Pointed, penetrating, painful, bitter (as if your tongue is being poked). What would cause them to be bitter toward them? That is the issue in context.
- What is going on here with husbands and wives? Which is the chicken, and which is the egg? Something is causing the wives to not submit themselves to their own husbands. Something is causing the husbands to be bitter toward their wives. Doesn't matter which is first, Paul tells each side to deal with themselves and not the other person. **Paul Tripp, we are responsible for what comes out of ourselves, what we do in reaction to others**. Apply the above question form of the command to your marriage. No, to you in your marriage. How are you doing?
- **3:20 Children** - **obey**, imperative. To hear, to pay attention to, and act/react. **Fire alarm in school. well pleasing** - Give God a sense of "ahhhhh." Your parents too.
- **3:21 Fathers/Parents** - **do not provoke**, imperative, to stir to anger. **Could be deliberate or not**. Don't motivate by discouragement alone. **become discouraged**, the idea being **don't knock the wind out of their sails**. Parents, ask your kids if you do this to them, and be prepared to hear the answer, "yes" and do something about it. Kids understand that what you perceive as having the wind knocked out of your sails can be your own immaturity. Both sides need to get this.
- **Doing all on behalf of Jesus while living with one another in your marriage and family. That's how you experience love-bound living.**
- In your work relationships, **3:22 - 4:1 [10]**
  - **3:22-25 Bondservants** - slave, one in permanent servitude to another, bound to another. **Voluntarily or not. Like Bluto dragging me in field**. More modern application would be employees. Walk it through. **obey** is imperative, means same as above.
  - **4:1 Masters** - Lords, same word applied to Jesus. Boss, employer. Walk it through. **give** is imperative.
  - **Doing all on behalf of Jesus while living with one another in your work relationships. That's how you experience love-bound living.**
- In your prayer life, **4:2-4 [11]**
  - **4:2 Continue earnestly** - imperative, related to persevere. **being vigilant** - to watch, to refrain from sleep. Metaphor. **thanksgiving** - just so. **See the emphasis on thankfulness in all of this? At least three times.**
  - Three things about prayer - persevere in prayer, be vigilant in prayer, do so with thanksgiving. Individually, context is group.
  - **4:3-4** Praying for what? In context for Paul and his companions so that the gospel will go out, speaking out the secret hidden until now, making it plain to understand. **Is that part of your prayer life for yourself and for the church?**
  - **Doing all on behalf of Jesus while living with one another in your prayer life. That's how you experience love-bound living.**
- In your relationships with those outside the body. **4:5-6. [12]**
  - **4:5 walk** - imperative, Paul likes this work for living our lives. **in wisdom** as opposed to foolishness. **This is deliberate. Foolishness will happen otherwise. redeeming** - buying back, it would otherwise be lost.
  - **4:6** Continuation of **4:5**, having to do with answering for how we walk and redeem the time. **Watch your mouth, you never know whose listening.**
  - **Yoyo Man, always on.**
  - **Doing all on behalf of Jesus while living with one another in your prayer life. That's how you experience love-bound living.**

(Based time, go through (or not) the rest of the chapter.)

# Interconnection

To foster living in one accord means (1) to put on attributes that break down barriers and build up the body, (2) to let the peace of God be the ref of your individual and collective lives, (3) and to make yourselves the home of the word of Christ, the home where the action is.

Doing everything on behalf of Jesus, giving thanks to God as you do it applies to your marriage and family, your work relationships, your prayer life, and your relationships with those outside the body.

That's what it means to experience love-bound living. That is systemic Christianity in action.

## Imploration

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Remember the truth and the reality you had at the beginning of your walk with Him. If you can't remember what that was or never had it, take a do over today.

Be dedicated to the task. Being a disciple of Jesus means facing opposition from the world. It will be tough, but it will be worth it if you remain in Him.

If you are trying to walk the walk and find yourself digging the holes in your life full, stop it. Completeness, freedom, and peace can be found in Jesus alone, not in what you can do.

If you find yourself blending in elements of wisdom, spirituality, or legalism that aren't from Jesus but are from the world, don't do it like that, do it like this. You died with Him and were raised with Him. Put off the old and put on the new.

Pursue love-bound living in the body of Christ and in your relationships. It's what you were born-again for.

Read [2:6-7](#). Let Jesus be systemic in your life.