

Maturing Together in the Kingdom

Colossians 3:12-17

Members of Christ's kingdom must grow in maturity together.
They do this...

1. With the love of Christ (vs 12-14)
2. Under the peace of Christ (vs 15)
3. Sharing the word of Christ (vs 16)
4. In the name of Christ (vs 17)

FOR FURTHER THOUGHT:

1. Before Paul tells the Colossians what to do in this passage, he reminds them of who they are at the beginning of verse 12. How does this encourage you? How can that help orient our obedience to God?
2. Paul lists many fruits of the Spirit (see Galatians 5:22-24) in what it means to “put on” the “new self.” Which of these are difficult for you? How might you intentionally encourage another Christian to grow in a specific fruit? What words from Colossians or examples from Christ’s life might you use?
3. How does inclining your heart toward thankfulness impact how you react to situations in life and to other people? Why is being thankful hard? Paul seems to view this as a key aspect of Christian maturity. How can we grow together in thankfulness? How does this help in showing forgiveness to others and being at peace within the body?
4. Compare Colossians verses 1:28 and 3:17. How does Paul accomplish the goal of his ministry? How do the similarities in these verses impact how you think about participating in corporate song or family worship?
5. Paul states that we grow and act in maturity as representatives of Christ’s kingdom. If you are meant to show the love of Christ tangibly to other believers, how does that change how you engage with them on Sundays and outside of church? How can you encourage or admonish another believer when he or she falls short in this?