

Col. 3:10 and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,

3:11 where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.

3:12 Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering;

3:13 bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.

3:14 But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.

October 19, 2025 Colossians 3:11-14

Sermon Title: "Love is the perfect bond that ties everything together"

[From Today's Sermon]

The last part of last week's passage stated:

"You have been renewed in the image of your Creator and have put on the new self, which is true knowledge."

What is true knowledge?

"Christ is all, and is in all. ... Put on compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another, and forgive one another if anyone has a complaint against another; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony."

This is true knowledge, perfect knowledge, and the law.

"The whole law is summed up in this one statement: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" (Galatians 5:14)

The statement, "There is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, or free, but Christ is all..." is intriguing. The Jews call the Greeks Gentiles, saying they are the circumcised people, not the uncircumcised Gentiles. But the Greeks and Romans say they are not uncivilized people, or (by analogy to their own religion) pagans, atheists, or heretics. Free people say they are not of slave status. People hold differences against each other, erect walls between themselves, and remain divided. It is God's love in Christ that bridges these divides. It is the love of forgiveness.

Introduction: Quotation from Scripture - The Lord's Love That Overcomes Division

John 4:7 A woman of Samaria came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Please give me a drink."

4:8 His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.

4:9 The Samaritan woman said to him, "How can you, a Jew, ask me, a Samaritan woman, for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)

4:10 Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water."

4:11 "Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water?"

4:12 Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us this well and drank from it himself, as did his children and his flocks?"

4:13 Jesus answered her, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again.

4:14 But whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

4:15 "Sir," the woman said, "give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water."

4:16 Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband and come back here."

4:17 The woman answered, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right when you say you have no husband.

4:18 You have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true." 4:19 The woman said to him, "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet.

4:20 Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we ought to worship is in Jerusalem."

4:21 Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.

4:22 You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews.

4:23 But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such people to worship him.

4:24 God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."

4:25 The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things."

4:26 Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am he."

4:27 Just then his disciples returned and were surprised to find him talking with a woman. But no one said, "What do you want?" or "Why are you talking with her?"

4:28 So the woman left her water jar and went into the town and said to the people,

4:29 "Come and see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?"

4:30 They left the town and went to see Jesus.

4:31 Meanwhile, the disciples urged him, "Rabbi, eat something."

4:32 But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about."

4:33 So the disciples said to one another, "Could someone have brought him something to eat?"

4:34 Jesus answered them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work.

4:35 You say, 'There are still four months until harvest time.' But I tell you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already ripe for harvest.

4:36 The reaper reaps to receive eternal life, so that both reaper and sower may rejoice together.

4:37 So the saying holds true: 'One sows and another reaps.'

4:38 You are reaping what you have not sown. Others have done the hard work, and you are reaping the benefits of their labor."

4:39 Many Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony: "He told me everything I ever did."

4:40 So the Samaritans came to Jesus and asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days.

4:41 Many more believed because of his word.

4:42 They said to the woman, "We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world." It suddenly feels like winter has arrived. Last Sunday, I had the air conditioner on low, but today I've turned on the heater. It seems we've skipped late summer and autumn—when short sleeves were still fine during the day but moving around made you hot—and entered early winter, where I long for heaters and kotatsu. They say the low temperature this Wednesday will be 0 degrees. I'm quite surprised. I hope you've all been keeping well.

Former Prime Minister Ishiba's Statement upon Resignation

"Amidst challenging circumstances, I gave my utmost effort with the resolve to sincerely and carefully engage with each party and faction, maintaining an attitude of speaking honestly to the sovereign people." "I am truly and deeply grateful for the support received from both ruling and opposition parties, as well as from many citizens." Regarding the new cabinet led by Sanae Takaichi, he stated: "I hope it will be a government that faces each and every citizen with humility, sincerity, and integrity—a government of solidarity and tolerance, not division and confrontation." I hope it will be a government that treats each and every citizen with humility, sincerity, and honesty."

“Our Liberal Democratic Party must never become a party that thinks only of the present or only of itself. It must be a conservative party guided by tolerance and inclusiveness, a true people's party. I have growing concerns that if we, the LDP, lose the people's trust, Japanese politics could easily descend into populism.”

Our fellow Christian, Mr. Shigeru Ishiba, concluded his 386 days as Prime Minister and stepped down on the 21st.

“I gave my utmost effort, driven by the desire to sincerely and carefully engage with each party and faction, and to speak honestly to the sovereign people,” “We must be a conservative party that values tolerance and inclusion, a true people's party,” “Not division and confrontation, but solidarity and tolerance. I hope for a government that humbly, sincerely, and honestly engages with each and every citizen.”

These words were truly wonderful. Prime Minister Ishiba's reflections on the 80th anniversary of the war's end were also constructive and splendid, filled with a resolve never to wage war again.

Matthew 5:9 Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

We too, as the salt of the earth and the light of the world, embody the following words:

Matthew 5:13 You are the salt of the earth. If salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

5:14 You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden.

5:15 Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on a lampstand, where it gives light to everyone in the house.

5:16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Philippians 2:15 So that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without fault in a crooked and perverse generation. You are shining like stars in the world, holding fast to the word of life.

We need not shrink back, thinking we cannot do it, that the burden is too heavy, or that it is too great a task. We are not striving to shine through fatigue; we are already light. What we can do is either let that light shine or hide it. We should simply be ourselves without hesitation. This service of bearing witness as light is something anyone can do. We offer what we can. With prayer, we desire to be used by the Lord.

3:10 You have been renewed in the spirit of your mind and put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

3:11 Here there is no Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.

3:12 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.

3:13 Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

This is the life we live, clothed with the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

“Greeks and Jews, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarians, Scythians, slaves, free men.”

The Jews called the Greeks Gentiles. The Jews called themselves the circumcised people, God's people, and looked down on the uncircumcised. The Greeks and Romans, whose nations were advanced, looked down on the uncivilized peoples. The Scythians. These were people viewed in the Roman world as absolutely pagan, heretical, and atheistic. Jews called Greeks Gentiles, Greeks and Romans called people from undeveloped nations uncivilized, and by analogy to the Roman world, they condemned those who believed in other religions as Gentiles and heretics.

Free people looked down on those of slave status, and slaves may have resented those who mercilessly exploited them.

In this way, each group despised the other. It is a division caused by the wall of misunderstanding.

People often struggle to think solely from another's perspective. Even when changing one's position would bring understanding, they rarely exercise such imagination. Instead, they decide their own position is correct and refuse to understand others.

But the Bible says there is no such discrimination. In this world, there is discrimination within these various groups of people. There are walls that cannot be overcome. How can we overcome them?

3:10 You have been renewed in the spirit of your mind and put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

3:11 Here there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, or free; but Christ is all, and in all.

3:12 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.

3:13 Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

Christ is everything. Christ is in all things. Christ is God Himself in the highest place, yet He came down low and spent time with us common people as one of us.

Seeing how Jesus loved us so much that He gave Himself as a sacrifice, desiring to be conformed to the Lord in gratitude—this is what it means to be “renewed in the spirit of your mind and put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.”

3:12 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.

3:13 Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

“Since you are God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.”

3:5 Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires, and greed, which is idolatry.

3:6 Because of these, God's wrath is coming.

3:7 You also once walked in these ways, when you lived in them.

3:8 But now you must put them all away: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your mouth.

3:9 Do not lie to one another, since you have taken off your old self with its practices

3:10 and have put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

We cast off the filthy, old, soiled garments and put on the heart of Jesus. What a blessing it is to be able to wear something so wonderful, beautiful, and fragrant!

“Since you are God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.”

We are chosen and loved by God. We are loved with a heart of compassion, receiving the love

of God who is loving, merciful, humble, gentle, and patient. Therefore, let us also share this love, just as we have received it.

1 Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession. so that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

2:10 Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

2:11 Dear friends, I urge you Since you are travelers and strangers in the world, abstain from the passions of the flesh that wage war against the soul.

2:12 Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.

The words "You are God's chosen ones, holy and dearly loved" are truly wonderful, no matter how many times we read them. We are the chosen ones, set apart as holy, and dearly loved. And we desire to be loved, chosen, and to serve as instruments for the fulfillment of God's precious will.

John 15:16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.

15:17 This is my command: Love each other.

John 13:34 A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.

13:35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.

1 John 4:18 There is no fear in love. Perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears has not been perfected in love.

4:19 We love because he first loved us.

4:20 Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen.

4:21 Whoever loves God must also love their brother, for this commandment we have received from God.

Galatians 5:6 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love.

(New Revised Version) 5:6 In Christ Jesus, whether one is circumcised or not is not important; only faith working through love is important.

3:12 Therefore, since you are God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.

3:13 Bear with one another and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against another. Just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

Bear with one another is also needed within the church. Times may come when we feel like accusing one another. But we bear with one another and forgive. That is what God has done for us. Even if there is something to blame, forgive one another. Just as the Lord forgave us, demanding no repayment, but forgave us through the blood of Jesus Christ, so we are told we should forgive one another.

3:14 Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

And the Bible tells us to add love to forgiveness. It's not enough just to forgive; we must love on top of that forgiveness. Wiping away a person's sins is a great act of forgiving love, but on top of that, we must actively love that person.

“Love is the perfect bond that ties everything together.” Love is the bond, the ligament, that leads to completion and maturity.

Ephesians 4:15 Speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ.

4:16 From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

“Christ is all, and is in all.” Holding this truth in our hearts, receiving God's wisdom, forgiving, giving, serving, and being bound together by God's love—the love of God revealed through Jesus. This is the beauty being spoken of.

A divided society. An age where aversion is easily stirred, and differences breed conflict and strife. In the midst of this, may the Lord Jesus Christ, who is “all in all and in all,” shine forth. For us, for the world, Christ is everything.

Galatians 6:14 But may I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

New Revised Version 6:14 But for me, there is absolutely nothing to boast about except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. Through this cross, the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

The world was transformed by Christ's coming. We “live, move, and have our being” with Christ.

Acts 17:27 17:27 God has made it possible for people to find him by seeking him earnestly. For he is not far from any one of us.

17:28 For in him we live and move and have our being.

Romans 1:14 I am a debtor both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish.

1:15 So I am eager to preach the gospel also to you who are in Rome.

1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.

12 Put on then, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience,

3:13 Bear with one another and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

3:14 And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

New Revised Version 3:14 And above all these put on love. Love is the perfect bond.

“Love is the perfect bond.”

In Christ, people are loved, forgive one another, serve one another, and become one. Christ's love. Through His death on the cross and His redeeming love, we are saved, forgiven, given life, and become one. We desire to turn our hearts to the words the Lord taught us, which transform the world's values.

Matthew 20:20 Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Jesus with her sons and knelt before him, asking him for something.

20:21 He said to her, “What do you want?” She replied, “Grant that these two sons of mine

may sit, one at your right and one at your left, in your kingdom.”

20:22 Jesus replied, “You don't know what you are asking. Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?” They said to him, “We can.”

20:23 Jesus said to them, “You will indeed drink my cup, but to sit at my right or left is not mine to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared by my Father.”

20:24 When the ten heard this, they were indignant with the two brothers.

20:25 Then Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them.

20:26 But it shall not be so among you. Rather, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant,

20:27 and whoever wants to be first among you must be your slave.

20:28 Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

◇Prayer: **Heavenly Father, we thank You for today's worship. In this world, people cannot overcome differences—arguing over who is superior or inferior, refusing to understand one another because their thoughts differ, or even physically disliking someone. They exclude each other without trying to understand. But Jesus is the bond that completes and matures all things, and for this we give thanks. We give thanks that we may put on the new self, created in God's image, be renewed day by day, and attain true knowledge. Please lead all those who suffer into God's salvation and peace. Bless our families and our neighbors. Use us. We pray in the name of our Lord Jesus. Amen.**