

LINCOLN COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH
SERMON OUTLINE
Oct. 14th, 2018
Col. 3:14-15

RECAP: Last week, we looked at God's instruction on characteristics we as Christians are supposed to demonstrate. God commands us to put aside all greed, anger, and malice, and put on instead love, holiness, and grace.

- **“And above all these put on love,”**
 - This Greek word is, “agapos.” It is most literally and woodenly translated, “value.” You value something. If you value it, it's important to you, to love it, protect it, take care of it, and mean good for that object of your love.
 - The best demonstration of this is **Philippians 2:1-8**.
 - This is a love that requires action. It's a love that even in those moments when it's not emotionally comfortable or fine, you continue to seek the good of the person anyway.
 - We are called by God to put this kind of behavior on. It's worth reading over a very familiar passage that uses this same “agape” love in detail, **1st. Cor. 13:1-7**.

- **“which binds everything together in perfect harmony.”**
 - Paul makes mention of the fact that this love, when it is present and it clearly the object of our lives, it binds everything together and completes it.
 - We see this because if everyone in the body esteems you above themselves, and you esteem them the same, then everyone is taken care of, and no one has to be concerned! **2nd Cor. 8-9**.
 - This does *not* mean that true love doesn't mean convicting someone, or offending someone if they are truly wrong, or even openly opposing someone if necessary. Love is not tolerance, or simple nicety. But it does mean the best good of all parties involved is being sought, even the good of our enemies or opponents.

- **“And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which you were called in one body.”**
 - Then Paul mentions this other aspect of Christian life, something that also characterizes us as believers. He states that we must have “peace,” and not only peace, but that peace must “rule” in our hearts, as a commanding principle.
 - Understand also that Christ Himself takes care of you and preserves you through trial. As such, you can have lasting peace. This is a massive comfort!

- **“And be thankful.”**
 - Finally, Paul urges us to demonstrate gratitude in the Christian life. Gratitude is just as much part of Christian living as love, and peace.
 - Let us remember how much Christ has done. Let's take time to reflect on the fact that Christ is the infinite God, our personal Savior, and our King, all of which are massive blessings.

- **Conclusion:**
 - **Let us be more loving of others. Let us seek to have peace of heart, and finally, let us**

remember the grace of God and be humbled by His undeserved mercy toward us.