**Difference Blind**

Next Steps

January 17, 2021

Colossians 3:5-17

**Opening Prayer:**

God, we recognize the fear and emotions we have surrounding people that look, think, and/or act differently than we do. We ask the holy spirit to fill us, to search us, and to show us the people that we have been unwilling to reach out to in Christian love and acceptance. Give us the boldness of Christ, and help us see past external physical difference. Help us see the equal spiritual value that Christ saw. Amen.

**Breaking the Ice:**

* What did you agree or disagree with in the sermon this week?
* Are there any recent events that you can relate to this particular passage?

**Wrestling with the Word:[[1]](#footnote-1)**

Colossians 3:5-17

* What are your initial thoughts on this passage?
* What does it mean to make allowances for each others faults?
* Can you give an example of when someone made allowances for your faults? How was that experience for you?
* Can you give an example of what someone that clothes themselves in love would look like or be like?
* How important is it that the verse ends with “And always be thankful”? What if you weren’t thankful?

**Next Steps:**

* Which of the character qualities mentioned in verse 12 is it most difficult for you to clothe yourself with?
* What one person might benefit most from you choosing to clothe yourself with that particular challenging quality? What are a couple of practical ways that you could do that this week?

**Prayer for the Week:**

Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me,
Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ on my right, Christ on my left,
Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit down,
Christ in the heart of every man who thinks of me,
Christ in the mouth of every man who speaks of me,
Christ in the eye that sees me,
Christ in the ear that hears me. (a prayer of St. Patrick)

1. Adapted from *The Serendipity Bible* (Zondervan: Grand Rapids, 1998) & with gratitude to GPS by the Church of the Resurrection. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)