

DEEP



WIDE

SERMON NOTES



VINTAGE PRESS

Deep & Wide
Community
Colossians 3:12–17

Deep & Wide Recap:

- Jesus modeled the rhythm of the Christian life—deep and wide.
- Vintage Church will grow deep by focusing on who we are becoming in Jesus and we will grow wide by focusing on who we are inviting into Jesus.
- nola.vcmvmt.com/deepandwide

“The Christian spiritual journey is a journey we take with others. Each of us must take our own journey, and for each of us that journey will be unique. But none of us is intended to make that journey alone” (David Benner, *Sacred Companions*, 40). (SHOW Book Image)

We can go deep when we intentionally develop spiritual friendships within the church.

Colossians 3:12–17

12 Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, **13** bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. **14** And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. **15** And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. **16** Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. **17** And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Become Like Jesus – v. 12

- “Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience”
 - You first must take responsibility for your spiritual development.

Forgive Like Jesus – v. 13

- “bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive”
- Why is forgiveness necessary?
 - Because we are to be like Jesus in extending grace
 - Because community will never survive without forgiveness.
 - “The challenges are real, but these are precisely what we must face in order to grow and mature in our true self. Scripture reminds us that in the midst of broken, sinful, frustrating people, God’s Spirit is at work creating a transformed community. God is not surprised by our brokenness. His way of maturing us isn’t thwarted. In fact, it is *in* and *by* the messiness that God does the supernatural

work of drawing us into the likeness of his Son” (Richard Plass & James Cofield, *The Relational Soul*, 119).

Love Like Jesus – v. 14

- “And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony”
- “So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love” (1 Corinthians 13:13).
- If you want to be in healthy community, focus on love.

Live Peacefully by Jesus – v. 15a

- “And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body.”
- Peace will not be in community unless it is first in us.

Be Thankful for Jesus – v. 15b

- “And be thankful”

Dwell on Jesus – v. 16

- “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.”
- Is Jesus the foundation of your community?

Do Everything Like Jesus – v. 17

- “And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”
- Are you living in community like Jesus would?

How do we cultivate the habit of community?

- Work on your own personal spiritual growth and maturity
- Seek out community with others
 - vGroups: Small group of 10–20 that meet throughout the city for Transformation, Connection, & Multiplication
- Identify 2–3 others you find spiritual friendship with
 - Formation Groups: Gender-specific groups of 3–5 individuals who meet regularly for the purpose of intentional and intensive discipleship.
 - Equip Night – Wednesday, November 10th, 6:30–8p
- With that group of spiritual friends, develop a plan for intentional, spiritual growth

“Those who love their dream of Christian community more than the Christian community itself become destroyers of that Christian community even though their personal intentions may be ever so honest, earnest, and sacrificial” (Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Life Together*, 24).