

Main idea:

An identity rooted in Jesus Christ produces love and thanksgiving.

### *Colossians 3:12-17*

*<sup>12</sup> Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, <sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. <sup>15</sup> And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup> 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. <sup>17</sup> 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.*

What does God do that breeds love and thanksgiving within us?

1. Chooses us,
2. Makes us holy,
3. Loves us,
4. Forgives us,
5. Calls us

### *James 2:14-17*

*<sup>14</sup> What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? <sup>15</sup> If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, <sup>16</sup> and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? <sup>17</sup> So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.*

### **Love**

*compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, <sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. <sup>15</sup> And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body.*

Are you:

- Compassionate
- Kind
- Humble
- Meek
- Patient
- Supportive
- Forgiving
- Peaceful

*Luke 6:27*

*"But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you*

Why is love so difficult?

*1 John 4:18-19*

*<sup>18</sup> There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. <sup>19</sup> We love because he first loved us.*

### **Thanksgiving**

*And be thankful. <sup>16</sup> 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.*

How are we to become full of thanksgiving?

Scripture:

1. Internalize Scripture
2. Engage with Scripture

*<sup>17</sup> 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.*

1. God loves and saves you, entering into a relationship with you and putting in you a new identity as His child
2. Adopting an attitude of thankfulness for God and His work will lead to a greater love for God,
3. Which leads to a greater love for His Word,
4. Which leads to a greater love for all people,
5. Which leads to the ability to love God and others in thought, word, and deed.