

October 17, 2026

Love In The Ordinary

October Series: Love Your Neighbor

Week Focus: Start Right Here

Scripture – Colossians 3:12–14 - *“Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.”*

Devotional Reflection

Throughout this week, we have been discovering that loving God must become visible in the way we treat the people around us. Yesterday, we were challenged to make room for somebody else by allowing Christlike humility to shape our priorities and responses. Today, Paul reminds us that love is not demonstrated only through extraordinary sacrifices or significant acts of service. In Colossians 3:12–14, he describes compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, forgiveness, and love as qualities that should characterize the everyday lives of those who belong to Christ. **CHRISTLIKE LOVE IS NOT RESERVED FOR EXTRAORDINARY MOMENTS; IT SHOULD BECOME VISIBLE IN OUR ORDINARY ONES.**

Sometimes we imagine that making a meaningful difference requires a special opportunity, a large platform, or an impressive act of generosity. Yet much of our daily life consists of ordinary conversations, repeated responsibilities, unexpected interruptions, and interactions with people we see regularly. These moments may appear insignificant, but they often reveal whether the love we profess is becoming the love we practice. The way we respond when someone makes a mistake, how we speak when we are tired, and whether we extend patience when circumstances become frustrating can all become opportunities to reflect the character of Christ. **THE ORDINARY MOMENTS OF LIFE OFTEN REVEAL THE EXTRAORDINARY WORK GOD IS DOING WITHIN US.**

Before Paul tells believers to clothe themselves with these qualities, he reminds them that they are God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved. This matters because Christian love is not simply a collection of behaviors we must perform to earn God's approval. Through Jesus Christ, we have received grace, forgiveness, and a new identity that should increasingly influence the way we live. When Paul calls us to forgive as the Lord forgave us, he points us back to the mercy we have already received rather than suggesting that we can produce genuine transformation through determination alone. **WE DO NOT PRACTICE CHRISTLIKE LOVE TO BECOME WORTHY OF GOD'S LOVE; WE PRACTICE IT BECAUSE HIS LOVE IS TRANSFORMING WHO WE ARE.**

As we prepare to conclude this week's journey, consider the ordinary opportunities God has already placed before you to demonstrate His love. You may have an opportunity to encourage someone who feels overlooked, respond gently during a difficult conversation, forgive an offense, or show patience when your plans are interrupted. These actions may never receive public recognition, but they matter because they reveal the direction in which Christ is shaping our hearts. Paul reminds us that love binds these virtues together in perfect unity, meaning our everyday expressions of compassion, kindness, and forgiveness should flow from a genuine commitment to loving others. **YOU DON'T HAVE TO WAIT FOR A BIG MOMENT TO DEMONSTRATE GOD'S LOVE; START RIGHT HERE, WITH THE ORDINARY OPPORTUNITIES HE HAS ALREADY GIVEN YOU.**

FOCUS FOR TODAY

Christlike love is not reserved for extraordinary moments; it should become visible in our ordinary ones.

The transforming work of Christ should increasingly be reflected in our everyday conversations, attitudes, responses, and relationships.

PRACTICE — MAKE ORDINARY MOMENTS COUNT

- Pay attention to your everyday interactions. Consider how your tone, attitude, and responses affect the people you encounter regularly.
 - Choose one Christlike quality. Intentionally practice compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, or patience in a situation where it may not come naturally.
 - Respond differently to frustration. When something interrupts your plans or challenges your patience, pause and ask how Christ would have you respond.
 - Extend grace where it is needed. Look for an opportunity to encourage someone, acknowledge a mistake, or take a healthy step toward forgiveness.
 - Recognize the significance of small actions. Remember that a thoughtful word, patient response, or simple act of kindness can become a meaningful expression of God's love.
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PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank You for the love You have demonstrated through Jesus Christ and for the grace that continues transforming my heart. Thank You that Your work in my life is not limited to extraordinary experiences but extends into the ordinary moments of every day. Forgive me for the times I have overlooked opportunities to demonstrate compassion, kindness, patience, and humility because they seemed too small to matter. Help me recognize that the way I speak, respond, forgive, and treat others can reveal the work You are doing within me.

Lord, clothe me with the qualities that reflect Your character. Teach me to demonstrate gentleness when I am frustrated, patience when I am inconvenienced, humility when I am corrected, and kindness when someone needs encouragement. Give me wisdom to pursue forgiveness and reconciliation where possible, without ignoring the importance of truth and healthy boundaries. Let my love for You become increasingly visible in the relationships and responsibilities that make up my everyday life. May the ordinary moments You place before me become opportunities to bring glory to Your name.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

REFLECTION QUESTION

What ordinary interaction or responsibility in your life has become so routine that you may be overlooking an opportunity to demonstrate Christlike love through it?