



## Shelby Christian Church

WE OVER ME: GROWING FORWARD TOGETHER \* AMOS 3:3, COLOSSIANS 3:12–14  
3/8/2026

### MAIN POINT

Christians and the church should reflect unity, compassion, and thanksgiving for what the Lord has done in Christ.

### INTRODUCTION

**What are the “typical” outcomes of following Jesus Christ? How do these compare with the results we should expect to see in the lives of believers?**

**If we could take spiritual “before-and-after” snapshots, what kind of transformation would be evident in the lives of people within our church?**

Paul provides clear instruction on how believers are to live out their new life in Christ. He explains the profound difference Christ is meant to make and urges his readers to visibly demonstrate that transformation through the way they live.

### UNDERSTANDING

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ AMOS 3:3

**What picture or illustration is Amos using in this verse? Why do you think he begins with such a simple, everyday example?**

**What does “walking together” represent in our relationship with God?**

**Why is agreement—or alignment—necessary for a close relationship, whether with God or with other people?**

**In what ways can someone claim to know God but still be “walking” in a different direction?**

**How does this verse apply to walking together as a church or small group?**

**Why is shared faith and commitment important for Christian friendships and leadership?**

**How can we lovingly help one another stay in step with God when someone begins to wander?**

The book of Amos is a prophetic message of judgment delivered to Israel (the Northern Kingdom) during a time of prosperity, moral decay, and spiritual complacency (8th century BC). In Amos 3, God begins to explain why judgment is coming and why the people should listen to the prophet. Amos 3:3 is the first in a series of rhetorical questions (3:3–6), each designed to show cause and effect—that events do not happen randomly, and that God’s actions are purposeful and justified.

Amos uses a simple, everyday illustration. Two people do not walk together unless they have first agreed to do so. The idea is not merely meeting coincidentally, but walking in harmony, direction, and intention. Close relationships require shared direction and agreement.

Applied to Israel, God is saying that the broken fellowship between Himself and His people is not accidental. Israel has walked away from God's covenant, lives in disobedience, and yet assumes God's continued favor. Amos shows that such a relationship is impossible without alignment.

## **HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ COLOSSIANS 3:12–14**

**What does the phrase “put on” suggest about how Christian character is developed?**

**What do the listed virtues (compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, patience) have in common?**

**How does remembering that we are “chosen, holy, and beloved” shape the way we respond to others?**

**Which of these virtues do you find hardest to practice, and why?**

**How does humility affect the way we show compassion and patience?**

Colossians 3 marks a turning point in Paul's letter, moving from theological truth to practical transformation. After reminding believers that they have “put off the old self” and “put on the new self” (3:9–11), Paul now describes what the new life in Christ looks like in everyday relationships. These verses emphasize that Christian conduct flows from identity before obedience.

## **APPLICATION**

**What are some areas of life where it is easy to drift out of step with God's will?**

**How do Scripture, prayer, and obedience help keep us aligned with God?**

**Are there habits or attitudes that may be preventing deeper fellowship with God right now?**

**What does “bearing with one another” look like in real-life relationships within the church?**

**Why is forgiveness essential for healthy Christian community?**

**How does forgiving “as the Lord has forgiven you” change the way we view offenses?**

## **PRAYER**

## **COMMENTARY**

### **Amos 3:3**

Covenant Relationship Requires Alignment - God had entered into a covenant with Israel, outlining how they were to live in faithfulness and obedience. Amos 3:3 implies that Israel's actions

demonstrate disagreement with God's will. They cannot claim to "walk with God" while living contrary to His commands.

**Fellowship with God Is Not Automatic:** This verse confronts the false assumption that spiritual privilege guarantees closeness with God. Though Israel was chosen, election did not excuse rebellion. Relationship with God involves ongoing faithfulness, not mere association.

**God's Judgment Is Justified:** Amos is preparing the people to understand that the prophetic warnings and coming judgment are not arbitrary. If Israel has chosen a different path, separation and discipline naturally follow.

### **Colossians 3:12–14**

Verse 12 — Paul begins by reminding believers who they are: Chosen — graciously selected by God, not by merit, Holy — set apart for God's purposes, and Beloved — deeply loved by God.

This identity anchors the commands that follow. Paul uses the metaphor of putting on clothing, implying intentional and daily action. The virtues listed—compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience—describe the character of Christ Himself. These are not personality traits, but Spirit-formed qualities meant to shape how believers relate to others.

Verse 13 — Paul moves from inner character to relational behavior. "Bearing with one another" implies patience with people's weaknesses and imperfections. Christian community involves friction, and Paul assumes that grievances will occur.

Forgiveness is presented not as optional but as essential. The standard and motivation for forgiveness is Christ's forgiveness of us. Believers forgive each other because they have been forgiven. This is gospel-shaped forgiveness—gracious, undeserved, and restorative.

Without forgiveness, bitterness takes root and undermines unity. With forgiveness, relationships become places where God's grace is visibly displayed.

Verse 14 — Love is presented as the supreme virtue, the one that holds all the others together. Paul does not replace the earlier virtues with love; instead, love empowers and stabilizes them. Compassion without love can feel forced; humility without love can seem artificial. Love ensures that every virtue functions rightly.

"Perfect harmony" communicates completeness and wholeness. Love reflects God's own nature and creates unity within the body of Christ. It is the defining mark of Christian maturity.