



National Youth Sunday 2018

Bound Together: Clothed in Christ (Colossians 3:12-15)

Theme Interpretation by Erika Clary

The theme of this year's National Youth Sunday, along with the theme of National Youth Conference, is Bound Together: Clothed in Christ, which coincides with scripture from Colossians 3:12-15. In thinking of the term "Bound Together," many thoughts come to our minds; feelings of unity, loving one another, and acting as the body of Christ are just a few. As believers, we are called to always be there as support for one another, which includes mountaintop experiences as well as experiences in the valleys of our lives. When one of us is going through a difficult time, everyone else is called to lift that person up using their own talents. This also means, in accordance with verse 13, that we must be forgiving and bear with one another no matter the circumstance. Colossians 3:14 says "And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity." As the Church of the Brethren, we show this unity through love at our district or interdistrict events when we all worship together, through our service in work camps or other volunteer opportunities, and through church camps. To be bound together in love means we are always looking out for our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. Paul's image of the church consisted of many members that come together and each bring their own gift. Love is the greatest of all gifts, and as the body of Christ we are bound together by God's love for each of us and our love for one another.

Colossians 3:12 reads, "Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience." In choosing the theme for National Youth Conference (and National Youth Sunday), the National Youth Cabinet thought about the idea of "clothing yourselves" and it reminded us of wearing different shirts that include each of the previously mentioned ideas. Christ reflects compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience in everything that He does. To be Clothed in Christ, we are called to live how Jesus did and show each of these virtues. When



**we are Clothed in Christ, it
lessons, and teachings of**

**know them in how we live our own lives. Living as Jesus did also means
practicing peace in our violent world, and stepping across borders to see the
best in everyone, even when it is not the most comfortable. Finally, when we
put on love, all of the other virtues are brought together in unity.**

**means we know the stories,
Jesus and show that we**