

Clothed in Christ

Col. 3:12-17

INTRODUCTION:

All Stand and Read Scripture

Colossians 3:12-17 (NASB)

¹² So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; ¹³ bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you. ¹⁴ Beyond all these things *put on love*, which is the perfect bond of unity. ¹⁵ 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 richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms *and* hymns *and* spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷ Whatever you do in word or deed, *do all* in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

Prayer

ILLUSTRATION:

At different times in our lives, all of us have gone through life changing events.

Marriage.

Man becomes husband.

Woman becomes wife.

You no longer do some of the things that you used to do.

You have new privileges and responsibilities that change how we act.

Parenthood.

Husband becomes a father.

Wife becomes a mother.

Grandparents.

Father becomes a grandfather.

Mother becomes a grandmother.

New Birth in Christ.

Become Christians.

Become Adopted Sons and Daughters.

Paul tells us that when we become Christians our old earthly body **dies** to the things of the world and we **put on** a new life living by God's word.

Last week we covered the fact that even though we "felt like" **we** had chosen to serve God, we learned that in fact God had chosen us before the beginning of time.

John 15:16 (NASB)

16 You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit,

Paul put it this way in

Ephesians 1:4-6 (NASB)

4 just as He **chose** us in Him **before the foundation of the world**, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love **5** He **predestined** us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, **according to the kind intention of His will, 6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.**

It is difficult to understand how we can have the free choice to choose Christ and realize at the same time that God, according to the kind intention of His will had already chosen us.

John 14:6 (NASB)

"I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.

The scriptures tell us that we can only get to the Father through Christ. But it doesn't mean that since we have been chosen of God, that there is nothing that we need to do.

John 10:27 (NASB)

27 My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me;

John 14:15-17 (NASB)

15 "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.

16 I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; **17 that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.**

This is where Paul is going in our scripture this morning. He is saying that when you are "born again". when we were buried into baptism and raised again into a newness of life as Christ was resurrected from the dead, we will experience a **LIFE CHANGING EVENT** that will change the way we act and what we do.

Colossians 3:12 (NASB)

12 So, as those who have been **chosen of God**, holy and beloved,

Paul says that once we accept Christ in our lives we are to "put on" or "clothe yourselves" (NIV) with the likeness of Christ.

In verse 12 we are to "put on" the Attitude of Christ.

"put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience;"

In verse 13 we are to "put on" the Actions of Christ.

" bearing with one another, and forgiving each other"

In verse 14 we are to "put on" the Affections of Christ.

"Beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity."

BODY:

I. Put on the Attitude of Christ.

A. Compassion.

Compassion is a sympathy for the needs of others.

- sickness
- pain
- clothes
- shelter
- food
- transportation
- finances

Matthew 9:35-36 (NASB)

³⁵ Jesus was going through all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness.

³⁶ Seeing the people, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and dispirited like sheep without a shepherd.

It seems that everywhere Jesus went, He always had compassion for the people.

- healed the sick
- raised the dead
- fed the hungry

B. Kindness.

Kindness is the desire to help or do good to people.

Luke 6:35 (NASB)

³⁵ But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for He Himself is kind to ungrateful and evil *men*.

Our kindness should not be just to people who are kind in return. We are even to love our enemies.

C. Humility.

Biblical humility is hard to describe. It is often defined as a trait of having a low opinion of ourselves. But, I am not sure that is an accurate description.

Jesus was humble and meek.

Matthew 11:27-30 (NASB)

²⁷ All things have been handed over to Me by My Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father; nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal *Him*.

²⁸ "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS. ³⁰ For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

Jesus was humble, but He certainly did not have a low opinion of Himself. He WAS God and proclaimed it. His heart was humble and gentle, but His position as the Son of God was certain.

It seems that the humility of Christ was due to the fact that He was willing to do the will of the Father, even to the point of death on the cross, without question and without trying to put Himself first.

Philippians 2:3-8 (NASB)

³ Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; ⁴ do not *merely* look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. ⁵ Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, *and* being made in the likeness of men. ⁸ Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

This is the attitude of humility. Be willing to serve Christ without selfishness and regard others as more important than yourself.

D. Gentleness.

Gentleness is also called "meekness". Gentleness is not weakness. It is not timid. Jesus was meek, but He certainly was not weak.

- Controlled the wind and the waves.
- Twice drove out the money changers in the temple.
- Called the Pharisees whitewashed hypocrites.
- Had the power to bring the dead to life.

He had all of this power, but He also allowed others to take advantage of Him. He was willing to surrender His own rights for the rights of others.

If we have gentleness, when we are criticized, we can let it go and not hold a grudge. We will treat others with kindness.

E. Patience

Patience is the ability to exhibit all of the previous attitudes with people without becoming impatient with them.

Christ was patient with His disciples when they did not understand what He was teaching them. He continued correcting and teaching them.

II. Put on the Actions of Christ

Colossians 3:13 (NASB)

¹³ bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.

A. Bear with One Another

When we "**bear with one another**", we in essence have to endure each other in love.

2 Thessalonians 1:4 (NASB)

⁴ therefore, we ourselves speak proudly of you among the churches of God for your perseverance and faith in the midst of all your persecutions and afflictions which you endure.

ILLUSTRATION:

There may be times when you will need to have "adult" children move back in to your house due to circumstances outside your control. There may come a time when your parents may have to live with you when they reach a point that they cannot continue to take care of themselves.

You LOVE them very much and would do anything for them that you can. But, there will be days that you will just have to "put up" with them.

We put up with them because we love them.

This is the way it can be in the church. There will be people who are "difficult" to deal with. They may have opinions or characteristics that annoy us. Paul says that it is important that we "put up" with each other.

Colossians 3:13 (NASB)

¹³ bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.

B. Forgive Each Other

You must also be willing to forgive each other when you are wronged by another Christian. Notice who it is that is to forgive. **It is the one who is offended!**

You are to forgive others as Christ has forgiven you. Christ has forgiven us for much more than we will EVER have to forgive another Christian.

Matthew 18:21-35 (NASB)

²¹ Then Peter came and said to Him, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?" ²² Jesus *said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.

²³ "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴ When he had begun to settle *them*, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. ²⁵ But since he did not have *the means* to repay, his lord commanded him to be sold, along with his wife and children and all that he had, and repayment to be made. ²⁶ So the slave fell *to the ground* and prostrated himself before him, saying, 'Have patience with me and I will repay you everything.' ²⁷ And the lord of that slave felt compassion and released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But that slave went out and found one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and he seized him and *began to choke him*, saying, 'Pay back what you owe.' ²⁹ So his fellow slave fell *to the ground* and *began to plead* with him, saying, 'Have patience with me and I will repay you.' ³⁰ But he was unwilling and went and threw him in prison until he should pay back what was owed.

³¹ So when his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were deeply grieved and came and reported to their lord all that had happened. ³² Then summoning him, his lord *said to him, 'You wicked slave, I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Should you not also have had mercy on your fellow slave, in the same way that I had mercy on you?' ³⁴ And his lord, moved with anger, handed him over to the torturers until he should

repay all that was owed him. ³⁵ My heavenly Father will also do the same to you, if each of you does not forgive his brother from your heart.”

The King symbolizes Christ. Christ forgave a debt that was so large that you could not possibly pay back.

Your debt of sin cannot be cancelled until you are also willing to forgive others.

III. Put on the Affections of Christ.

Colossians 3:14 (NASB)

¹⁴ Beyond all these things *put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity.*

A. Love

Love is the affection that covers all of the attitudes and actions just like clothing. Without love we will be unable to be like Christ in our attitudes and actions. Without love, nothing good is possible.

1 Corinthians 13:1-3 (NASB)

¹³ If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ² If I have *the gift of prophecy*, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³ And if I give all my possessions to feed *the poor*, and if I surrender my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing.

It is love that will bond a body of believers together. We need the love of Christ in us through His Spirit.

Throughout the scriptures, it appears that there is a natural connection between LOVE and UNITY within the body of Christ. Paul is telling us that we must put on this love, because it is LOVE that will bond us together.

CONCLUSION:

Do you see the standard of what true Christ likeness is like? To be compassionate, kind, humble, gentle, and patient. To be willing to bear with one another and forgive one another in love.

This is what it means to put on a new self in the image of our creator from verse 10.

If you have not accepted Christ as your Lord and Savior, do it today. Don't wait until you have cleaned up your life. **You don't clean yourself up to come to the Christ; you surrender yourself to Christ, to let Him clean you up!**

He Is Lord!

He is Lord, He is Lord. He has risen from the dead and He is Lord.
Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess, That Jesus Christ is Lord.