

## Off With the Old and On With the New

Colossians 3:12-17 – July 18, 2010

- **Become in Your Lifestyle What You Are By God's**  
\_\_\_\_\_ (Colossians 3:12a)

**“CHOSEN OF GOD”**

Ephesians 1:4-5

**“HOLY” =**

**“BELOVED” =**

Titus 3:5

- **Dress Fittingly for \_\_\_\_\_ Occasion**  
(Colossians 3:12b-14)

**“PUT ON”**

**“COMPASSION”**

Compassion is the emotion of \_\_\_\_\_.

**“KINDNESS”**

**“HUMILITY”**

Romans 12:3

I Peter 5:5

**“GENTLENESS”**

Matthew 26:53

Meekness is power \_\_\_\_\_.

**“PATIENCE”**

**“BEARING WITH ONE ANOTHER”**

I Peter 4:8

**“FORGIVING”**

**“PUT ON LOVE” =**

Love \_\_\_\_\_ the church together.

- **Activate the Right \_\_\_\_\_ System**  
(Colossians 3:15)

**“RULE”**

When we follow the \_\_\_\_\_ of God we will  
experience the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.

Philippians 4:7

**“BE THANKFUL”**

- **Be Dominated in \_\_\_\_\_ by the  
Word of God** (Colossians 3:16)

### Wrap Up

#### My Next Step for this Week:

- Forgive someone like Christ has forgiven you.

#### Which Statements Apply To You

- I feel bad when I don't carry out my "Next Step."
- I don't feel like I need "Next Steps."
- The "Next Steps" help me apply the sermon.

## Off with the Old and On with the New

Colossians 3:12-17 – July 18, 2010

**Intro:** How are you about cleaning out your clothes closet? Are you a tosser or accumulator? I find that I am attached to certain shirts – especially colored T-shirts. I’ve got more than I need. But I’m realizing that since I have more than I need – I need to get rid of some of these. And some of them are old and probably more useful for rags.

In our spiritual life ... we need to clean out our spiritual closets too. But the difference here is – we can throw out the old rags of sexual sins and attitude sins like anger ... and they make their way back in our closet again. Putting off these old rags and putting on our newer clothes is a constant activity.

The Christian has a spiritual wardrobe. What we wear has much to do with the condition of our soul.

### Compare

Anthropologists ... judge what physical race a man belongs to by his *SKULL*

Christians ... judge what race a man belongs to by his *HEART*

What we wear is the fruit we bear daily – the fruit of a bad heart lived out by immorality and an angry attitude ... or the fruit of a clean heart lived out by the outward display of love, joy, peace patience kindness etc.

The Apostle Paul continues the metaphor of clothing ... putting off the rags and putting on the new ... something that was introduced in verses 5-11.

Paul takes us into the believer’s closet to show what we should wear in life. And I love the title one pastor used for this section ... *WHAT THE WELL-DRESSED CHRISTIAN WILL WEAR THIS YEAR.*

### ➤ **Become in Your Lifestyle What You Are By God’s CALLING**

(Colossians 3:12a)

For the last two weeks we’ve been considering the principle:

*BECOME IN YOUR LIFESTYLE WHAT YOU ARE BY GOD’S GRACE.*

In verses 12 ... a different but parallel emphasis is made.

*BECOME IN YOUR LIFESTYLE WHAT YOU ARE BY GOD’S CALLING.*

#### **Colossians 3:12**

So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience;

The first word in the sentence ... in the New American Standard Version is “so.” This word can be interpreted *therefore* or *wherefore*. In other words ... Paul is building on a positional truth to lead us to practicing that truth in our lifestyle.

“SO” ... or *because of three facts* ... clothe yourselves with some special qualities.

Paul brings into view ... not only that we have died with Christ and have been made alive with Christ ... but he brings into view something incredible about our relationship with God.

**“CHOSEN OF GOD”**

**Ephesians 1:4-5**

just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love  
1:5 He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will

Watch this

You did not choose God at the moment of salvation ... so He would choose you.  
He initiated your salvation before the foundation of the world

If God saved on the basis of merit, **NOBODY** would be saved

Julie Andrews – Sound of Music ... when good things came her way ... sang  
“*SOMEWHERE IN MY YOUTH OR CHILDHOOD, I MUST HAVE DONE SOMETHING GOOD.*”

Implied: *My goodness merits reward.*

Because God chose you ... and called you ... He has made you what you were ***not!*** He called you and also appointed that you'd be holy!

**“HOLY” = SET APART**

Separated us out from the world ... separated us from a sinning world ... separated in our lifestyle.

God chose us and then SET US APART for Himself

“*SAINTE*” = same word as holy – but used as a pronoun ... holy one ... what we are positionally ... so we'll live this out in our lifestyle.

**Transition:** God *chose* us ... *set us apart* ... and then changed His affection towards us ... which we see in the next word ...

**“BELOVED”** = What God considers us when we're His ... because He chose us ...

My wife's names: *Linda, Sweetheart* ... but one that's become more special in the last 10 years is simply the name “*LOVE.*” It is actually the shortened form of the word *beloved.*

When it comes to being beloved of God ...

I can tell you a lot of reasons why I shouldn't have this special relationship ... but I have it because God fixed His love on me ... when I had no love for Him.

Don't miss this

It is because of **WHO** you are and **WHOSE** you are ... that you are to then **LIVE** like you **NOW** are. You are *IN* Christ!

Think of it this way ...

God motivates us to new life by reminding us who we **ARE** rather than what we have **ACHIEVED**

**Titus 3:5**

Not by works of righteousness that we have done but according to His mercy He saved us

So never forget ...

You and I have become **UNDESERVEDLY** beloved

Warren Wiersbe

*“Chosen by God, set apart for God, loved by God, and forgiven by God. They all add up to GRACE!”*

We observe ...

Every believer has been dedicated **TO** God **BY** God **FOR** God

**Transition:** Our motivation for action is clear ... we're indebted to the One who called us ... made us holy ... and put us in a precious relationship – making us beloved. Because of this we have some important responsibilities. You and I are to put on the beautiful graces of the Christian life.

➤ **Dress Fittingly for EVERY Occasion** (Colossians 3:12b-14)

**Colossians 3:12b-14**

So ... put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience;  
3:13 bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.  
3:14 Beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity.

**“PUT ON”** – Human responsibility! My duty! My loving obligation! Something I can do in the power of the Holy Spirit because Christ dwells within me.

Last week we went over several things that have to be PUT OFF before we can PUT ON. But here we come to the positive things to put on.

Bing Crosby once sang the song ...  
*You've got to accentuate the positive,  
Eliminate the negative,  
Latch on to the affirmative,  
And don't mess with Mr. In-between.*

The writer, probably not realizing it ... was embracing what we've been talking about. One we eliminate the negative ... we need to latch on to the affirmative ...

The sharply dressed saint will put on eight spiritual garments: Let's look at them briefly

## “COMPASSION”

The NASV interprets the phrase to read “*put on a HEART of compassion.*” *But literally it reads “PUT ON THE BOWELS OF COMPASSION OR SYMPATHY”*

The Greeks ...

Considered the bowels to be the seat of the **violent passions of anger**

The Hebrews ...

Considered bowels to be the seat of the more **tender affections**, especially compassion and kindness

To the Western world ...

We describe the seat of our passions as coming from our heart

**Story of little girl** – Asked to describe the parts of man

*"Man has three parts:*

*The brainium,*

*The chester,*

*And the abominable cavity.*

*The **brainium** holds the brain,*

*The **chester** holds the heart,*

*And the **abominable cavity** holds the **bowels**, of which there are five:*

***A, E, I, O and U"***

There are a whole lot of people that are confused about their humanity as this little girl. So let's put on our thinking caps to be sure we understand these words.

Compassion is the emotion of **SYMPATHY**

The Lord wants us to *FEEL* for others when they are hurting and struggling

*Have you clothed yourself with compassion today?*

“**KINDNESS**” = compassion in **ACTION**

Kindness is compassion that is made visible

Kindness is compassion EXPRESSED

Simple ways to express kindness

Expressed in a smile ...

Expressed in a kind word

Expressed in helping a stranded motorist

*Have you clothed yourself with kindness today?*

“**HUMILITY**” = to have a proper perspective and estimate of ourselves

### **Romans 12:3**

For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment ...

Interesting to understand

The pagan world at the time of Christ did not value humility. They admired pride!

Observed by many ...

Humility was a virtue made noble by Christianity.

In classical Greek there is no word for humility ... for it was a sign of weakness.

Clarification: Humility is not thinking POORLY of oneself

It is understanding where our strengths lie ... and where our weaknesses lie. And when we know our strength ... we'll recognize it is a gift from God – not something we've endowed upon ourselves!

**I Peter 5:5**

“... all of you clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble.

*Have you clothed yourself with humility today?*

“**GENTLENESS**” = Meekness ... another trait unappreciated in the Greek world ... the pagan world at that time

Jesus was meek.

Watch this

Jesus displayed His meekness by having the power to resist those who captured Him but choosing to restrain Himself.

When Jesus was arrested in Gethsemane – Peter tried to defend Him.

**Matthew 26:53**

“Or do you think that I cannot appeal to My Father, and He will at once put at My disposal more than twelve legions of angels?”

Good definition:

Meekness is power **UNDER CONTROL**

And what's interesting about this trait ... it does not have to display itself or show off how strong it is.

*Have you clothed yourself with gentleness today?*

“**PATIENCE**” = Longsuffering ... literally “*long-burning*”

Being clothed with a *long fuse* ... so you're not readily agitated

One writer called said this means *LONG-TEMPER* ... as opposed to a short temper

*Have you clothed yourself with patience today?*

“**BEARING WITH ONE ANOTHER**” = the willingness to put up with the faults of others

The willingness to not react to the unpleasant traits of others

**I Peter 4:8**

Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins.

Observation

Many Christians are willing to put up with the faults of others ... but not for very long. And many Christians are simply unwilling to be around others who have bothersome faults ... and that may be wrong too.

In the church there will always be some who have some unpleasant traits. Welcome to the church!

*Have you clothed yourself with this today?*

**“FORGIVING” =**

The Lord has no commendation for the person who merely puts up with the faults of others ... if they will not also FORGIVE these people!

Enduring bothersome people ... refusing to retaliate against those who have hurt us is good but incomplete if forgiveness is not included!

**Colossians 3:13c**

“... forgiving each other ... just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.

Forgiveness is not motivated by a feeling. Forgiveness is motivated by being a recipient of immeasurable forgiveness

Never forget!

No one will ever commit more sins against you than you have committed against God!

All I have to do ... when I’m struggling to forgive ... is to ask myself, *how often and how many times have I offended God?* Every sinful thought ... every selfish action ... and every sinful act is an offense against a holy and righteous God! And how many times has He forgiven me? EVERY TIME!

This pastor’s perspective

You do not have to forgive anyone if you have not been forgiven!

You will never understand the joy of forgiving until you understand Christ’s forgiveness directed at you!

Well said

*A forgiven man must always be forgiving (William Barclay)*

*Have you clothed yourself with this today?*

**Transition:** Now we come to the grandest gown of all ... and this is expressed in the phrase ... “*beyond all these things*” ... the stand alone quality from which the others will follow ...

**“PUT ON LOVE” =**

Love is the crowning virtue! It’s tops! It is of most importance. If you live out the other 7 traits but have not love ... you’re a worthless noise maker (a clanging cymbal)

But when love is present it will make

- ✓ Compassion possible
- ✓ Kindness possible
- ✓ Humility possible
- ✓ Gentleness possible
- ✓ Patience possible
- ✓ Forgiveness possible

For there is something that love does in the church.

LOVE IS ...

**Colossians 3:14**

“... the perfect bond of unity.”

Love **GLUES** the church together

Love is a *unity-producer*

The special ability to **accept** others because we know we have been **accepted** by God

The special ability to **love** others because we know we have been **loved** by God

*Have you clothed yourself with this today?*