

Ushers . . . Bibles

We are on the back side of our sermon series thru the book of Colossians – with only a chapter and a half to go

Last week, John brought us thru the 1<sup>st</sup> part of ch 3; And today we'll pick up the second half of this section in ch 3

Really, v1-17 go together, but to help process it for application we looked at v1-11 last week and we're picking up v12-17 today

Since this whole section kind of goes together, let's just review a bit, to make sure we see it as a whole . . .

Last week was titled Fill Up & Act Like It (Col 3:1-11); And the main points were:

- Pursue God
- Destroy Sinful Desires
- Clean up Your Attitude
- Clean up Your Mouth
- Christ is all, and in all

And all of that could be summed up by saying

**Be a Christian who LIVES like a Christian!**

Fully pursue Christlikeness – Be All In

You might remember the analogy John used - to change those “old clothes” for “new clothes” Referring to our old way of living, before Christ in our lives, to a new way of living – one that reflects Christ

Put away/off the former way of living (those old dirty clothes); And that included such things as (bring out the dirty shirt w/things velcro'd to it):

Sexual immorality	Impurity	Passion
Evil desires	Covetousness	Idolatry
Anger	Wrath	Malice
Slander	Obscene talk	Lying
Prejudice		

Things to put off just like v9 says;

<sup>9</sup> . . . *seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices* [and then v10 sets up the next section, which is where we're headed] <sup>10</sup> *and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator*

So let's pick up in v12 and read thru v17 to get the “put on” parts of this section – you follow along; Col 3:12-17

<sup>12</sup> *Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, <sup>13</sup> bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. <sup>14</sup> And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. <sup>15</sup> And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup> Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. <sup>17</sup> And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*

Paul is going to tell us some things to “put on”, but first he tells us why we should even put them on in the 1<sup>st</sup> part of v12

If you're a believer in Jesus Christ; You belong to God and you are Holy and you are Loved That's who you are; You're children of the living God and you should live like it

IOW, You should . . .

**PUT ON NEW CLOTHES (V12-14)**

Paul likes to give lists but the thing is he often gives a list as examples and then covers the whole thing with a phrase or an overarching principle in case he forgets a particular thing; And this section of ch3 is no different.

He gives us qualities/virtues to put on

These qualities/virtues to put on are things that God intends to replace the sinful things that he just told us to put off

He wants them to be things that shine thru and show; To be like a garment or clothing that completely covers or envelops

To be habits or the norm in how we interact with people and live

Just like we put on clothes each day; As believers in Christ we are to put on spiritual qualities/virtues which demonstrate that we are genuine followers of Jesus

Chip Ingram says it this way:

“Walk with God in such a way that you reflexively respond like Jesus”;

In the men's Bible study last week, Chip likened this to when the doctor sits you down and hits your knee with that little hammer and your leg just reflexes – no thinking, just reacting

We are to develop or put on these qualities/virtues, b/c we are God's children Realize too that each virtue is **not** to be seen as a separate piece of clothing, Instead they're to be woven together to make up a single garment that we wear (bring out the new shirt to put each virtue on)

And the 1<sup>st</sup> quality/virtue Paul gives us is:

**Compassion** – a heart of compassion is the first quality that marks the believer who is living as a new person

You could say it this way; We should have a “heartfelt compassion” or “a deep, gut-level feeling of compassion”

IOW, believers are not to be indifferent to the sufferings and hurts of others; Instead, we should be genuinely concerned and have a desire to meet people's needs

**Kindness** – is closely related to compassion; It's the friendly, helpful spirit that looks to meet the needs of others thru kind deeds and words

Maybe the most commonly known Bible example of this would be the story of the Good Samaritan in Lk 10

He noticed a need; Actually went over to him (different from the others who just passed by);

And cared for the man's needs at his own expense of time and money – kindness

What can you do this week for someone else to show kindness?

And then there's . . .

**Humility** – that's the next one Paul gives us; And it could be defined as the opposite of self-love

It's a lowliness in thinking of self (not self hatred) that puts the needs and interests of others ahead of yourself; Just like Paul describes in the book of Phil. 2:3-4 . . .

<sup>3</sup> *Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, <sup>4</sup> not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.*

**Meekness** – is the next one; The NIV uses the word Gentleness

Meekness or gentleness is not weakness or spinelessness – it's a controlled strength

When a horse is harnessed it hasn't lost its strength, it actually gains a usefulness, but hasn't lost one ounce of strength

When we choose to direct our strength to be constructive and encouraging rather than destructive; That does not display weakness; It displays meekness – controlled strength  
A humbling of self that trusts in God being in control and waits patiently for Him and His work  
And it comes out toward others in a kindness and at times even a willingness to suffer instead of inflicting suffering

**Patience / Bearing with one another** – A patient person does not get angry at others; They withstand unpleasant circumstances without revenge or retaliation

There is an ability to tolerate being hurt, provoked or annoyed without complaint

There's also the desire to not give up on someone or write them off too soon

That's the patient person, bearing with others; Then there's . . .

**Forgiveness** – or giving up your right and desire to hold a grudge or to punish behavior that deserves it; You value relationships with each other more than revenge

This is easier to do when you keep it in perspective, like v13 says, *forgiving as we have been forgiven by the Lord*

Remembering your need to be forgiven and the extent and depth of God's forgiveness of you  
**Matt 6:15** even tells us, *If you do not forgive others their trespasses neither will your Father forgive your trespasses*

So it's a pretty serious one to nail down – don't you think? (pause)

Okay, so there's these qualities that Paul gives us to put on; And then he says this in v14.

<sup>14</sup> *And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.*

## LOVE

Love is central to all these – like according to this verse it's what binds all these others together

I would say love is the most important quality in the believer's life b/c it's the glue that holds them all together and produces unity

Believers will never enjoy mutual fellowship thru compassion and the rest of the qualities/virtues listed unless they love one another!

And so the summary of all these qualities/virtues is to Love one another! All these priorities have got to flow from a heart of love

Now, let's look at something very interesting; As we put on these qualities it's like we're putting on Christ or Christlikeness; And what's interesting is that these same qualities are also descriptions used for Jesus throughout the NT

**Compassion/Kindness** – **Matt. 9** Jesus was going from place to place teaching and as he did v36 tells us <sup>36</sup> *When he [Jesus] saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.*

**Mt 14** again Jesus has compassion on the people and heals their sick

**Meekness** – **Mt 11:29** Jesus says of himself, <sup>29</sup> *Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.*

Or how about the meekness he displayed with the disciples in **Jn 13** when he washed their feet – they all knew it should have been done but no one did it until Jesus stepped in as their example – meekness for sure

**Patience** – **Mt 17:17** <sup>17</sup> *And Jesus answered, "O faithless and twisted generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him here to me."* And I'll bet we could all point to God's patience with each of us – right?

And how about a **Forgiving spirit** – **Mt 9:2** gives us just one example of Jesus forgiving when people brought a paralyzed man to him and he forgave his sins  
Or maybe a better example is when Jesus was on the cross and asked His Father to forgive the people who were doing this cause they didn't know what they were doing in **Lk 23**

Jesus lived out these qualities when he walked the earth; And when we "put on" our new clothes as believers in Jesus then it's like we are "putting on Christ" almost like literally putting on Christlikeness – just like Jesus!

Here's a great verse that says literally to put on Christ and it should be familiar to you from when we went thru the book of Galatians; **Gal 3:27**, <sup>27</sup> *For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.*

The purity of Christ is presented as a garment we wear when we repent and receive salvation and as we grow in Christ we continue to "put on" Christ by taking on the virtues that he lived and expects us to live

"Put On" Christ each day living as a Christian who actually works to live as a Christian!

As you do that you want to make sure your priorities line up with God's priorities

**MAKE GOD'S PRIORITIES, YOUR PRIORITIES (V15-16)**

B/c this is how we make these qualities or virtues a reality in our life – they don't just happen by accident – these things need to be our priorities . . .v15-16

<sup>15</sup> *And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup> Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.*

If you're going to put on your "new clothes" or be the new person you are in Christ then you'll want to make these priorities yours; First . . .

**Be ruled by the peace of Christ**

IOW, when you, as a believer, are faced with a choice, you should consider if what you choose is consistent with the fact that you and Christ are one – at peace, on the same side  
And so are your choices consistent with this fact? Are you on the same side as God

The peace of Christ should be a priority; Should rule in your life

Another priority is to

**Be thankful for the work of Christ**

You're to have an attitude of gratitude or gratefulness to God for all that He has done for you through His son

*give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*

That's what 1 Thess. 5:18 says

Another priority that we actually already talked about the 1<sup>st</sup> week of this series is to . . .

**Fill up on God's Word** - <sup>16</sup> *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly,*

God's word is always there; Always with you

You should remember this concept from when we introduced this series . . . remember we made the connection that . . .

You stay at a hotel BUT you Dwell *in your* home – it's where you live and always are

In the same way, the Word of God needs to Dwell in you; Not just come and go

It needs to be with you all the time; Always with you; It's part of who you are

Like even though you're not in your home right this minute; Your home is a part of you b/c you dwell in it

And just b/c you're not reading God's Word every second of everyday; It still should be dwelling in you

Why? B/c you're studying it, reading it & meditating on it

**If you're not filled up on the Word of God, then you lack the tools & means necessary to mature as a follower of Christ** – And then you won't be able to "put on" new clothes or live the virtues that you should

B/c they flow out of a relationship with God that is being filled up with God's word

So, 3 priorities that you want to make sure you have lined up with God's priorities, so that you can "put on" Christ like virtues:

**Be ruled by the peace of Christ**

**Be thankful for the work of Christ**

**Fill up on God's Word**

And then, finally . . .

**IDENTIFY WITH JESUS (V17)**

I love when Paul does this kind of thing to wrap up or end a list he gives

He seems to like to do this in his writing a lot; It's almost like he knows how people think – probably b/c he would think similarly; Therefore, knows how to address our way of thinking

So Paul from v1-16 has given a list of things/behaviors to "put off" – get rid of

Then he gives us virtues to "put on" in place of the things to put off

While also telling us priorities to line up with God's priorities in order to be able to live these virtues out

And, just in case, just in case he forgot something; Or maybe knowing that the people he's writing to, as well as you, would find a loophole or think of something he forgot, and use it as an excuse – He throws in v17

<sup>17</sup> *And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him*

That's a drop the Mic statement right!!!

It's like, put off or get rid of these things; Put these things on in their place and make sure you line up your priorities with God's; And by the way, *Whatever you do, in word or deed* [that's like everything] *do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus!* Bam! DROP THE MIC

**(Summary)**

For sure some things to reflect on and see what you need to work on

Hopefully some things to be encouraged about that you've already been working on and have already put on and lined up with God's priorities

Just so that this whole concept doesn't leave your mind when you walk out those doors after the service . . . I want to leave you with a challenge for this week

The challenge for you to do at your own pace and your own time this week

**This Week's Challenge:**

- Read Colossians 3:12-17 then read John 15
- Write down any connections you see in how to live for Jesus

It's amazing how well God's word lines up with itself; And I think you'll be surprised when you read these two passages how much more you can learn to apply to **being a Christian who actually lives like a Christian!**

Let's Pray

**Close:**

**Welcome Packet & Step 1 @ Guest Central**

We'd love to connect w/you for about 10 minutes; don't forget to bring us your filled out register and we have a gift for you

**Congratulate those families who dedicated their children today**

**Don't forget . . .**

Men's & women's Bible studies tonight – 6-8 w/childcare &

Mom's in Prayer – Tuesday 10-11am

Alive & Free – Tuesday night 6:30-8:30pm w/childcare as well

**You Are Loved**