

Put On the Following Colossians 3_12-14

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Colossians 3:12–14 (KJV 1900)

¹² Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; ¹³ Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also *do ye*. ¹⁴ And above all these things *put on* charity, which is the bond of perfectness.

- We have before us Paul's Gospel or Pauline Theology
- It is an examination and comparison of our standing and state before God
- Due to our standing before God our righteousness flows from within
- Under the Mosaic Dispensation righteousness was external
- Consider the following from the context of Colossians

As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, *so* walk ye in him: (Col. 2:6 KJV)

We walk by faith not by sight. What would the Christian life look like if Baptismal Regeneration were a fact?

Consider our relationship to the Law of Moses

Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, **nailed it to his cross**; (Col. 2:14 KJV)

Consider Paul's corrective to external sanctification

Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the **rudiments of the world**, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to **ordinances**, ²¹ (**Touch not; taste not; handle not**; ²² Which all are to perish with the using;) after the commandments and doctrines of men? (Col. 2:20-22 KJV)

The Victorian Era had a profound influence on our society in general

However, many of the tenets of morality were external. No dancing, cards, theater, smoking, drinking alcohol under any circumstance, no divorce and remarriage whatsoever.

Then we sent our young men to France twice by the mid 20th century (Ekerds and Colson)

Then Victorian ethics disappeared forever with the Counterculture movement of the 1960s
Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; (Col. 3:12 KJV)

Put on therefore... (Col. 3:12 KJV)

The verse refers to our standing before God with additional information.

Elect of God- every believer is elected.

Holy- we are not striving to be holy. We are holy in God's sight.

And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in *your* mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled²² In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight: (Col. 1:21-22 KJV)

The next verse is an Arminian proof text.

If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and *be* not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, *and* which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister; (Col. 1:23 KJV)

Beloved... Col. 3:12

Jesus said: "I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me." (Jn. 17:23 KJV)

Key Principle: You do not put these virtues on to become sanctified—you put them on because you already are sanctified.

The Garments We Are to Put On (v. 12–13)

"Put on therefore..."

This is practical. Though the new man is already true of us positionally, we must consciously "put on" these traits in our experience.

1. Bowels of mercies (compassion)

Bowels: archaic word for the heart.

It represents the underlying Greek word

The Latin equivalent is "viscera"

We think of it medically as the lower viscera

It includes the upper and lower

To modernize the expression to “compassion” is a dynamic equivalent

This is set in comparison to a formal equivalent translation

Definition:

- Deep inward sympathy toward others.
- Not surface kindness, but heartfelt concern.

Illustration: the good Samaritan Luke 10:30-37

Compare the context:

And, behold, a certain lawyer stood up, and **tempted him**, saying, Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? ²⁶ He said unto him, What is written in the law? how readest thou? ²⁷ And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself. ²⁸ And he said unto him, Thou hast answered right: **this do, and thou shalt live.** ²⁹ But he, willing to **justify himself**, said unto Jesus, **And who is my neighbour?** (Lk. 10:25-29 KJV)

2. Kindness

- Active goodness toward others.
- Treating others with grace, not harshness.

➤ David seeks out Jonathan’s crippled son, Mephibosheth, not to judge him, but to show “the kindness of God.”

3. Humbleness of mind

- The opposite of pride.
- A recognition that all we are comes from Christ.

Jesus Washing the Disciples Feet

He riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself. ⁵ After that he poureth water into a bason, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe *them* with the towel wherewith he was girded. ⁶ Then cometh he to Simon Peter: and Peter saith unto him, Lord, dost thou wash my feet? ⁷ Jesus answered and said unto him, What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter. (Jn. 13:4-7 KJV)

4. Meekness

- Strength under control.
- Not weakness, but restrained power.

Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for **I am meek and lowly in heart**: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke *is* easy, and my burden is light. (Matt. 11:28-30 KJV)

5. Longsuffering

- Patience with people, not just circumstances.
- The ability to endure provocation without retaliation.

Illustrated by the Father's Patience with Israel

Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. (Phil. 2:3 KJV)

The Practice of Grace in Relationships (v. 13)

Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also *do* ye. (Col. 3:13 KJV)

Two key actions define Christian relationships:

1. Forbearing

- Putting up with others.
- Allowing room for the weaknesses and faults of others.

2. Forgiving

- Not merely excusing, but releasing the debt.
- Letting go of the offense.

The Standard:

“Even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.”

- Christ's forgiveness was:
 - Complete
 - Undeserved
 - Freely given

Key Principle: We do not forgive because people deserve it—we forgive because Christ forgave us.

Illustration: Joseph and His Brothers (Genesis 37–50)

Joseph's brothers:

- Betrayed him

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- Sold him into slavery
- Lied about his death

Years later, Joseph has power over them—but he does not retaliate.

- He tolerates their past failures
- He deals gently with them

But as for you, ye thought evil against me; *but* God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as *it is* this day, to save much people alive. (Gen. 50:20 KJV)

Jesus on the Cross:

Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots. (Lk. 23:34 KJV)

The Supreme Garment: Charity (v. 14)

“And above all these things put on charity...”

Charity is archaic in the sense it is used in the KJV.

However, it represents divine love or the highest form of love

Charity is always a translation of the Greek word **ἀγάπη** (agape).

- Charity (love) is not just another virtue—it is the **binding force**.
- It is “the bond of perfectness” (maturity, completeness).

Be careful about pigeon-holing Greek words:

For God so loved the world (Jn. 3:16 KJV)

Love not the world, neither the things *that are* in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. (1 Jn. 2:15 KJV)

For the Father loveth (**φιλέω**) the Son, (Jn. 5:20 KJV)

Without love:

- Mercy becomes cold duty
- Kindness becomes performance
- Humility becomes false
- Forgiveness becomes mechanical

With love:

- All virtues are unified and made complete

Key Principle: Love is what holds the Christian life together.

Practical Application

Practical application of the truth is as important if not more important than doctrine

1. Daily Decision

- “Put on” implies intentional action.
- Each day, we choose whether to walk in the old man or express the new.

2. Relational Focus

- Every virtue listed is how we love our neighbor.
- Christianity is not lived in isolation—it is tested in relationships.

Christ as the Source (He possessed each of these traits)

- These are not self-produced traits.
- They are the life of Christ manifested through the believer (Gal. 2:20).

I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. (Gal. 2:20 KJV)