

## It's all about Jesus: I am NEW!! (Colossians 3:12-17)

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### Introduction

- I am a bargain shopper. Often buying refurbished.
  - My sound bar experience
- God does not make refurbished followers. He makes Dead men ALIVE. He doesn't offer a 1-year warranty. He offers an eternal guarantee.

### Put on Saints clothing (3:12)

- A New man must wear New Clothes. We see that Jesus Christ makes Dead men Alive (2:13) and have been challenged to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord fully pleasing to Him (1:10). But God does not want you to walk in this work without clothing yourself like a Saint. Do not walk into battle without the Armor of God (Eph 6:10) and to not live without the right clothing.
  - You see, this is often a problem with the church. We claim for ourselves faith but we do not want to dress appropriate. We are often so concerned about our Sunday best that we forget how to dress on Mondays!
  - Paul, the author of Colossians asks us this morning: Are you wearing heavens wardrobe?
- So what is our clothing as followers of Christ? What do dead men made alive wear?
- Mercy
  - The ANE, apart from biblical revelation, was merciless. The maimed and sickly were rejected, the age were discarded, the mentally ill were subjected to inhumanities.
    - BUT Christianity brought compassion.
  - Literally the word mercy = "Tender" "Heartedness"
  - In our lives the Gospel changes our heart in a way that we can no longer look at the struggles of another person and be unchanged and unaffected. Our hearts must be moved by compassion because our hearts have been changed by Jesus Christ
  - Are you merciful? Have you displayed mercy to someone this week?
  - Would you give a tip to a waiter struggling? Would you give food to someone in need? Would you pay off a debt you didn't owe in layaway? Would you give/serve this Christmas simply because of His Mercy?
  - Put on Mercy
- Kindness
  - We are next tasked to put on Kindness. Now this is an emotion/attribute that does not naturally happen in human relationships.

- George Bernard Shaw once wrote to Churchill: “enclosed are two tickets to the opening night of my first play bring a friend (if you have one).” Churchill replied “dear Mr. Shaw, unfortunately ill be unable to attend the opening night of your play due to a prior engagement. Please send me tickets for a second night (if you have one).”
  - **The human personally naturally descends to harshness, in word and Deed. Yet in Christ we are called to something different and NEW!**
  - The word was used to describe wine that has grown mellow with age and has lots its harshness. (hughes)
  - In Christ, we lose our harshness so that our gracious sensitivity towards others is triggered by genuine care for their feelings and desires.
  - **Have you put on kindness this week?**
    - Fathers are you kind or harsh to your children?
    - Bosses are you kind or harsh to your employees?
    - Christian are your posts on social media kind or harsh?
  - **Put on Kindness this week!**
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- **Humility**
  - A third garment that a Saint must put on is humility. This is a word that the Greeks never applied to themselves.
    - In the ANE, humility was viewed negativity.
  - **Jesus was not suggesting a cringing, groveling servility;** nor was he teaching his followers to think poorly of themselves. Rather he was teaching the necessity of the **absence of self-exaltation.**
  - **Humility says look at Christ not look at ME.**
    - Humility checks the incessant quest to attain honor and to rise in the pecking order (NIV)
  - **Those who walk with awareness through a wheat field will notice that it is the drooping ears that are heavy with grain (Hughes).**
  - **Have you been a me first or a Christ first person today? How about this week? Oh that we would clothe ourselves with humility.**
- **Meekness**
  - Next, God’s Word challenges us to put on Meekness.
  - **Gentleness/Meekness is strength under control (Hughes).**
    - = “the quality of not being overly impressed by a sense of one’s own self-importance”
  - Not only are we called to be Christ First (humble) followers but we display this posture because we know our importance and we know where our strength comes from!
- **Patience**
  - Enables one to wait quietly for a long time and to exercise forbearance (Lohse).
  - Is a quality that both the Father and Son display toward sinful creatures (Rom 2:4; 9:22).
  - **A violent women associated with the Salvation Army. She was known for her violent temper. After her conversion she shared her story in an open air meeting. One scoffer**

through a potato hitting her in the face. She picked up the potato and put it in her pocket and not a word was said until a later “harvest festival.” Warrior Brown attended and brought as her offering a little sack of potatoes. She explained that she had cut up the “insulting potato” and what she was now presenting to the Lord was the “increase.”

- - **Do you want to act like Christ and God? Be patient!**
- If kindness suggests a basic **approach** to people, then patience refers to the kind of **reaction** we should display toward them – Wright.
- **Love**
  - As beautiful and fine as his garments are, they can never be worn with comfort or grace until they are held in place by a belt (Hughes).
  - The picture offered is that love is a garment that is to be put on “on top of” the other items of dress (Moo).
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  - **Oh that we would clothe ourselves with Saints clothing. Put on Christ this week!**

## Bear with others (3:13)

- Wearing saintly attire promotes the capacity to bear with one another (Hughes).
- Before smoking was outlawed on planes, a passenger started to light a cigar when the stewardess informed him that cigar smoking was not allowed unless it was all right with the other person in the immediate area. “I absolutely detest cigars” was the reply. The man then moved to a new seat by a person who did not mind the cigar smoke. After the man walked to the seat the woman turned to the stewardess and confided “I’ve been married to that man for 30 years and I still can’t stand his awful cigars” (Hughes).
  - Often this is what can happen to the family of God
  - We have decided to “co-exists” rather than seeking and offering forgiveness.
- The demand acknowledges that every Christian fellowship is made up of all kinds of people and that we will accordingly sometimes find ourselves in close fellowship with people who are very different than we are (Moo).
  - Forgiveness is not a natural response
- **Is there someone here today you have offended? Ask forgiveness today**
- **Is there someone here today that has offended you? Offer forgiveness today**
- **He does not ask us to forgive... the Lord says we MUST forgive!**
- **Oh but what a picture of Grace we see when forgiveness of is offered.**
- The greatest forgiveness offered was the word of our Savior who said: “Father forgive them for they know not what they do.” (Luke 23:34)

## Let Peace rule (3:15)

- He is our peace (Eph 2:14) Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you (John 14:27)

- This is not merely **some inner strength**. The peace of Christ embraces the entire man so that the “peace of Christ” describes the sphere in which man as the new man exists (Lohse).
- Jesus gives us his own personal peace (John 14:27)
- His peace is a sense of wholeness and well-being, completeness and totality (Hughes).
- It is even more—it is the presence of Christ
- **New Men let peace Rule**→
  - FF Bruce sys rule carries the idea of arbitrate
  - **The sense here is, “let the peace of Christ be umpire in your heart amidst the conflicts of life. Let it decide what is right. Let it be your counselor.”**
- Does the prince of Peace rule your heart?
- Does His Peace umpire your life?

## Let the Word dwell (3:16)

- We are called to Put on Christ, Bear with one another, Let Peace rule and finally, let the Word dwell.
- Reading alone does not mean that the Word of Christ will dwell in us richly.
  - Richness comes when we are yielded to the Holy spirit, mediate upon and live out the truth of the Bible.
  - Its not a matter of study but a matter of the heart (Hughes).
- **It ain't those parts of the Bible that I can't understand that bother me, it is the parts that I do understand. – Mark Twain**
- Not only does the Word dwell but it reverberates in our lives and is sung from your mouth!
  - It is impossible to differentiate between the three terms but taken together they describe the full range of signing which the Spirit prompts (Lohse).
  - Lets Sing together:
    - **He is Lord**
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# Conclusion

**17** And *whatever* you do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

- Whatever/everything→
  - Forcefully stresses that absolutely everything that believers do must be done in the name of the Lord Jesus (Lohse).
- Here the reference is not to worship but now impacts the everyday life. Where he toils and sweats, that he is placed under the command to prove his allegiance to the lord (Lohse)
- By sitting in your seat you are agreeing that you are right with God and do not today need to profess Him as Lord.
- Do you have a Savior Story?

## Why does it Matter?

- We have been justified (made right before the Lord) and accepted
- We receive forgiveness (redeemed)
- We escape God's wrath (reconciled)

- We are adopted in to a new family
- We gain a new identity (New Creation)
- **Believe, Confess, Faith, Baptism**

## Notes

**Col. 3:12** Therefore, as *the* elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering;

- what is remarkable is that each of these titles was an honored OT appellation for Israel (Hughes).
- Put on saints clothing
- now five virtues, which should be put on, the accent is not placed on a certain disposition, but on the action through which the new man reveals his identity (Lohse).
- All of these virtues are the fruit of the Spirit. And in putting them on, the renewal comes to light which the new man, created by God, both experiences and realizes (Lohse).
- Mercy
  - In the ANE apart from biblical revelation was merciless. The maimed and sickly and aged were discarded; the mentally ill were subjected to inhumanities. The Christianity brought compassion (Hughes).
  - The gospel brings with it sympathy and tenderness of heart. That is one of its great glories! (hughes).
- Kindness→
  - Does not happen naturally in human relationships
    - George Bernard shaw once wrote to Churchill: “enclosed are two tickets to the opening night of my first play bring a friend (if you have one).” Churchill replied “dear Mr. Shaw, unfortunately ill be unable to attend the opening night of your play due to a prior engagement. Please send me tickets for a second night (if you have one).”
  - The human personality naturally descends to harshness in word and deed (hughes).
  - The word was used to describe wine that has grown mellow with age and has lots its harshness. (hughes)
  - It was used by Jesus to describe his yoke: “my yoke is easy (kind).”
  - Gracious sensitivity towards others that is triggered by genuine care for their feelings and desires (NIV).
- Humility
  - Humility checks the incessant quest to attain honor and to rise in the pecking order (NIV)
  - A word the Greeks never applied to themselves.
  - This word was often viewed negatively in the ANE.
  - Jesus was not suggesting a cringing, groveling servility; nore was he teaching his followers to think poorly of themselves. Rather he was teaching the necessity of the absence of self-exaltation
  - Those who walk with awareness through a wheat field will notice that it is the drooping ears that are heavy with grain (Hughes).
- Meekness
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- = “the quality of not being overly impressed by a sense of one’s own self-important”
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- Patience→
  - Enables one to wait quietly for a long time and to exercise forbearance (Lohse).
  - Is a quality that both the Father and Son display toward sinful creatures (Rom 2:4; 9:22).
  - If kindness suggests a basic approach to people then patience refers to the kind of reaction we should display toward them – Wright.

**13** bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also *must do*.

- Wearing saintly attire promotes the capacity to bear with one another (Hughes).
- Before smoking was outlawed on planes, a passenger started to light a cigar when the stewardess informed him that cigar smoking was not allowed unless it was all right with the other person in the immediate area. “I absolutely detest cigars” was the reply. The man then moved to a new seat by a person who did not mind the cigar smoke. After the man walked to the seat the woman turned to the stewardess and confided “I’ve been married to that man for 30 years and I still can’t stand his awful cigars” (Hughes).
  - Often this is what can happen to the family of God
- There is not specific incident addressed showing this is something universally valid for the community’s life together: to bear with one another (Lohse).
- The demand acknowledges that every Christian fellowship is made up of all kinds of people and that we will accordingly sometimes find ourselves in close fellowship with people who are very different than we are (Moo).
- Forgive→
  - Is an act of grace, freely offered, often not deserved.

**14** But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.

- Bond→
  - Means the fastening together of spate items which are thus brought together in unity (Lohse).
  - Bind refers to fetters that bind and/or the connecting parts of the human body (sinews).
- As beautiful and fine as his garments are, they can never be worn with comfort or grace until they are held in place by a belt (Hughes).
- The picture offered is that love is a garment that is to be put on “on top of” the other items of dress (Moo).



**15** And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.

- He is our peace (Eph 2:14) Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you (John 14:27)
- This is not merely some inner strength. The peace of Christ embraces the entire man so that the “peace of Christ” describes the sphere in which man as the new man exists (Lohse).
- “the surest sign you are carrying a full bucket is a wet feet” –British preacher R. White
- he gives us his own personal peace
- His peace is a sense of wholeness and well-being, completeness and totality (Hughes).
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- Rule→
  - FF Bruce says rule carries the idea of arbitrate
  - The sense here is, “let the peace of Christ be umpire in your heart amidst the conflicts of life. Let it decide what is right. Let it be your counselor.”

**16** Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

- Appropriate thanksgiving which 15b encourages occurs in the hearing of and reflection upon the word and in songs sung by the community to glorify God (Lohse).
- The conduct of the community out to correspond to the power of the word which is sustained by the Spirit; this will come about when the community reflects upon and interprets the word in its teaching and admonition (Lohse).
- Hymn→
  - Is the festival hymn of praise.
- Song→
  - Is the song in which God’s acts are praised and glorified.
- It is impossible to differentiate between the three terms but taken together they describe the full range of signing which the Spirit prompts (Lohse).
- Reading alone does not mean that the Word of Christ will dwell in us richly.
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- Here the reference is not to worship but now impacts the everyday life. Where he toils and sweats, that he is placed under the command to prove his allegiance to the lord (Lohse)
- Amid the activities of the world he must render “spiritual worship” (Lohse)
- He has to make the praise of God resound by listening to and preaching the word in song, prayer, but especially in his daily life and dealings with his fellow man (Lohse).

## Illustrations

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- Warrior Brown
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## Application

