

Colossians
“A Worthy Walk”
III. Main Teaching: 1:15-4:6

3:1-4:6 **Walking in the Wisdom of Christ**

3:12-17 Peace of Christ

3:12-13
“New Outfit, New Outlook”

I. Intro.

II. Vs. 12-13 Royal robes

I. Intro.

In chapter 3 verses 5-11 Paul wrote to the Colossian Church about putting off and putting to death the “*old man*” of our former life. I’m thankful he didn’t stop there as in verse 10 he told them that they needed to “*put on*” the new man and here before us in verses 12-17 he tells them new man looks like! Years ago Bing Crosby sang a song that accurately describes this section as the song went:

“You’ve got to accentuate the positive,

Eliminate the negative,

Latch on to the affirmative,

And don’t mess with Mr. In-between.”

The Christian life isn’t just about what we “*put off*” friend it’s about **WHO** we put on!

The great thing us each and every day we can put off the old man and put on the new man in Christ! It can be difficult to get up in morning and get going with the old man, as Albert Einstein noted while working on the mathematical equation for the “*speed of light*” he turned to his research assistant early in the morning and said, . . . “*The problem*

with the speed of light is, it comes too early in the morning!” There are a few Christians I know that act as if they don’t even believe in God before 10 in the morning. Saints could it be that part of our problem in the morning is that we haven’t gotten dressed in our grace clothes?

II. Vs. 12-13 Royal robes

Before Paul tells the Colossians what the 7 characteristics of the new man looks like he first tells of the four things God has done for them that make it possible to “put on” the new man:

1. Vs. 12a **He chose them:** As was the case with Israel described in Deut. 7:7-8 the choice was not based upon earthly qualities or characteristics but was done before the foundation of the world according to Eph. 1:4. If we were saved upon potential or merit heaven would be empty! But because His choice is grace heaven is full to the praise of His glory alone! How do you know if you are chosen? Receive Jesus and apparently you are chosen!
2. Vs. 12b **He set them apart:** That’s the meaning of the word “*holy*” we are no longer captains of our own ship we exclusively belong to Jesus as such we all could wear a shirt that says, “property of Jesus”. No longer are a slaves to the world’s ways and our passions, we belong to God.
3. Vs. 12c **He loves them:** Paul says that they are His “*beloved*”. Though God loves everybody and is not willing that any should perish there remains a difference when a person has not chosen to love God. Some people, by their own choice, *remain content to part of His creation that has broken His holy heart. What they may not understand is that as their Creator and Judge, He will respond to them as*

their Creator and Judge and act accordingly. But when we have chosen to receive the love of God, we are no longer just His creation we are His children And something marvelous happens when we choose to become His child, you see when we break His heart now we do so not just of our Creator and Judge but also of a loving Father, and no He chooses to act towards us as a Loving Father not a Creator Judge! Saints as we grow in His love we will grow in our desire never to allow anything to separate us from His love and walk in His love through obedience.

4. Vs. 13-14 **He has forgiven them:** We will take this up more in detail next week but, thank God that He has chosen to forgive “ALL” our trespasses and sins. His forgiveness is complete and is not conditional or partial because it is based completely on His sons sacrifice on our behalf. There remains no stone unturned in all our past, present or future failures that needs not be made new in God’s grace.

Vs. 12-13 The phrase “*Elect of God*” means that God has chosen the Christian to be unique in His plan. Each one of these 7 qualities is expressed through relationships with our fellow man and as such the measure of the “*new man*” that we are to “*put on*” is best seen in how we treat others. Having said this now we can look at the seven qualities that are best represented in the life of Christ.

1. ***Tender mercies:*** The word is literally “*bowels of sympathy*” and there is a reason why we don’t translate it this way anymore as there is very little sympathy that comes from most of our “bowels”. When this word was first written by Paul it came from a belief that emotions came from within, like we would say today...

“I’ve got a feeling deep down in my gut.” Tender mercies, is an attitude, a heart of pity and sympathy. We are to put on compassion and pity towards people the moment we get up in the morning. I’ve noticed the older I get the easier it is to put *“tender mercies”* on as I’ve lived enough life, had enough tuff experiences now that I want to be a blessing towards others and not just demand to be blessed. Human heart ache and suffering demand tender mercies and the older you become the easier they are to put on as we have experienced those same things.

2. **Kindness:** When we are putting on *“tender mercies”* we are putting on an attitude but when we get *“kindness”* we are moving beyond the attitude to action. It comes from that empathy but it can take on many forms to a warm smile, a kind word, a hug or an invitation to get together or an offer of help. Augustine wrote of this in his confessions where he wondered into a church and was converted not by the preaching of Ambrose but by the kindness of this man. *Saint’s don’t ever under estimate the value of kindness as it is the key that unlocks the door of most hearts!*
3. **Humility:** Humility in the ancient world was not seen as a virtue as they valued pride and arrogance. Humility is not thinking “poorly” about one’s self it is thinking “properly” about one’s self. John Stott call humility the *“rarest and fairest of all Christian virtues”* as it is the opposite of the worst of sins, “pride”! It was the lack of this virtue that caused the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah as we are told in Ezekiel 16:49 *“Look, this was the iniquity of your sister Sodom: She and her daughter had pride, fullness of food, and abundance of idleness; neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy.”* We are to consider

- other better than ourselves and act accordingly with a heart that says, “**THEY** *deserve better, instead of a heart that says **I** *deserve better.*”*
4. **Meekness**: This word is also rendered “*gentleness*” but I’m afraid that in today’s world it often gets mistranslated as “*weakness*” but in reality meekness literally means “*strength under control*”. It’s the kind of inward strength that doesn’t need to display its self or show off as its will to let go its rights for a good cause. Meekness doesn’t demand to be satisfied instead it’s willing to suffer the loss that others may gain. It’s the opposite of rude abrasive behavior.
5. **Longsuffering**: Or patience endures that which would normally cause folks to fly off the handle. It means to hold back and restrain one’s self from becoming upset before we behave in a way that destroys another instead of encourages another. I witnessed the lack of patience at a store the other day as there was a mom with a young teen who wanted the most expensive item on the shelf and wasn’t listening to the reason of the mom. Instead of just ignoring the selfishness of the young daughter she let her have it with a profanity laced tirade that made the young teens look tame. Saint’s *that’s what happens when we don’t put on patience as we end up looking far worse than the person or event that was trying our patience.*
6. **Bearing with one another**: “*Forbearance*” or “*bearing with one another*” is the positive side of the coin for patience. It means to uphold and support someone whereas patience means only to restrain yourself. Man could I ever use putting on this quality on more than just hanging in there with someone who is trying my patience actually being a blessings. That’s what Jesus was talking about in

Matthew 5:41 in the “*sermon on the mount*” where He said “*And whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two.*”

Saint’s we will pick up the seventh quality or characteristic of the new man (*forgiveness*) next week as well as what the Church ought to look like in the world today.