

Colossians :12-14

**TO LIVE *THE* LIFE –
EMBRACE THE CHANGE**

Colossians 3:12-14

¹² Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ¹³ Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴ And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

A necessary prerequisite

Put off

- ◆ sexual immorality
- ◆ impurity
- ◆ lust
- ◆ evil desires
- ◆ greed, which is idolatry
- ◆ anger
- ◆ rage
- ◆ malice
- ◆ slander
- ◆ filthy language from your lips
- ◆ do not lie to each other

⁴³ “When an evil spirit comes out of a man, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it. ⁴⁴ Then it says, ‘I will return to the house I left.’ When it arrives, it finds the house unoccupied, swept clean and put in order. ⁴⁵ Then it goes and takes with it seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there. And the final condition of that man is worse than the first. That is how it will be with this wicked generation.”

Matthew 12:43–45

A Necessary Foundation

- ◆ You are chosen
- ◆ You are holy
 - ◆ pertaining to being holy in the sense of moral qualities and possessing certain essentially divine qualities in contrast with what is human

Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996). Vol. 1: Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: Based on semantic domains (electronic ed. of the 2nd edition.) (744). New York: United Bible Societies.

A Necessary Foundation

- ◆ You are dearly loved
 - ◆ to have love for someone or something, based on sincere appreciation and high regard—‘to love, to regard with affection, loving concern, love.’

Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996). Vol. 1: Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: Based on semantic domains (electronic ed. of the 2nd edition.) (292). New York: United Bible Societies.

- ◆ Therefore you “put on . . .”

A Necessary Context

- ◆ Each of these attributes assume the pursuit of spiritual life in the context of community.
- ◆ This is the type of community in which
 - ◆ broken people are given the opportunity to become whole
 - ◆ mature believers are given the opportunity to fulfill Christ's command in John 13:14-15

John 13:14-15

¹⁴ Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. ¹⁵ I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.

What are we to pursue

◆ Compassion

- ◆ the psychological faculty of desire, intent, and feeling—‘heart, feelings, desires’
- ◆ ‘you must clothe yourselves ... with a capacity for compassion’ or ‘... ability to feel compassion’
- ◆ sympathetic consciousness of others’ distress together with a desire to alleviate it

What are we to pursue

- ◆ **Kindness**
 - ◆ to provide something beneficial for someone as an act of kindness
- ◆ **Humility**
 - ◆ the quality of humility—‘humble attitude, humility, without arrogance.’
- ◆ **Gentleness**
 - ◆ gentleness of attitude and behavior, in contrast with harshness in one’s dealings with others—‘gentleness, meekness, mildness.’

What are we to pursue

◆ Patience

- ◆ a state of emotional calm in the face of provocation or misfortune and without complaint or irritation

◆ Forbearance

- ◆ to be patient with, in the sense of enduring possible difficulty

◆ Forgiveness

- ◆ to forgive, on the basis of one's gracious attitude toward an individual
- ◆ a complaint which implies blame

What are we to pursue

- ◆ The standard for forgiveness
 - ◆ to give or grant graciously and generously, with the implication of good will on the part of the giver
- ◆ Love
 - ◆ a reference to an entity, event, or state, clearly identified by the linguistic or non-linguistic context of the utterance
 - ◆ to have love for someone or something, based on sincere appreciation and high regard

SOW WHAT

- ◆ In your experience, is the church a “safe place” to work on the deepest, most sensitive issues in your life? Why, why not?
- ◆ Which of the virtues that we talked about today are easiest for you to practice? Which are more difficult? Why?
- ◆ Godliness and the pursuit of community seem to go hand in hand. How are you pursuing the Christ-life in community?