

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

A Necessary Foundation

- ◆ You are chosen
- ◆ You are holy
- ◆ You are dearly loved
- ◆ Therefore 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

What are we to pursue

- ◆ 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
 - ◆ to give or grant graciously and generously, with the implication of good will on the part of the giver.

The Importance of Forgiveness

⁹ “This, then, is how you should pray:

“ ‘Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,

¹⁰ your kingdom come,
your will be done

on earth as it is in heaven.

¹¹ Give us today our daily bread.

The Importance of Forgiveness

¹² Forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.

¹³ And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one.'

The Importance of Forgiveness

¹⁴ For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. ¹⁵ But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

Matthew 6

The Importance of Forgiveness

Matthew 18

²¹ Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?”

²² Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.

Matthew 18

²³ “Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴ As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. ²⁵ Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.

Matthew 18

²⁶ “The servant fell on his knees before him. ‘Be patient with me,’ he begged, ‘and I will pay back everything.’ ²⁷ The servant’s master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.

²⁸ “But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii. He grabbed him and began to choke him. ‘Pay back what you owe me!’ he demanded.

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Matthew 18

²⁹ “His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.’

³⁰ “But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. ³¹ When the other servants saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed and went and told their master everything that had happened.

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Matthew 18

³² “Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. ³³ Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’ ³⁴ In anger his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.

Matthew 18

35 “This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart.”

Necessary Truths

- ◆ Understand that FORGIVENESS is not a suggestion but a command.
- ◆ Realize that you do not have to *forget* in order to FORGIVE
- ◆ Realize that FORGIVENESS is not a one and then you're done proposition.
- ◆ Realize that unforgiveness is like cancer to your soul and spirit.

Why do we struggle with Forgiveness

- ◆ We want to protect ourselves
- ◆ We want to punish those who have hurt us
- ◆ We have been deceived into believing that it is our right to refuse forgiveness

SOW WHAT

- ◆ Why is the matter of forgiveness given such emphasis in the teaching of Jesus?
- ◆ Why is it so easy for us to assume God's forgiveness and difficult for us to extend it to others?
- ◆ If forgiveness is a choice why is it hard to choose?