

Our Spiritual Wardrobe (Part Two)

Colossians 3:8-14

Dr. Jim Cecy

Colossians 3:8 "But now you also, put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive speech from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices, and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him — a renewal in which there is no distinction between Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and freeman, but Christ is all, and in all. So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you. Beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity."

Review of Part One

I. Getting Rid Of The Old Garments (Colossians 3:8-11)

The OLD SELF with its smelly sin-stained clothing vs. The NEW SELF with its garments of Christ-like beauty

Now in Part Two

II. Putting On Our New Garments (Colossians 3:12-14)

The full cost of our new wardrobe has been paid in full by Jesus Christ

A. Reviewing Our Spiritual Wealth (3:12a)

Colossians 3:12 " So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved..."

Reminder #1. We are chosen of God

Colossians 3:12 " So, as those who have been chosen of God..."

Reminder #2. We are set apart by God

Colossians 3:12 " So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy..."

holy = Greek: hagios = set apart

Reminder #3. We are loved by God

Colossians 3:12 " So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved..."

Ephesians 1:4-6 "...just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him. In love He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved."

B. Selecting Our Spiritual Wardrobe (3:12b-14)

1. Our Amazing Spiritual Wardrobe

Colossians 3:12b-14 "...put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you. Beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity." put on = Greek: enduo = clothe ourselves with

a. Put on a Heart of Christ-like Compassion

Colossians 3:12 "So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion..."

heart = Greek: splagchnon = heart/lungs/liver/kidneys/bowels/ "The guts to do the right thing."

compassion = Greek: oiktirmos = deep mercy, caring

- 2 Corinthians 1:3 "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort..."
- Matthew 9:36 "And seeing the multitudes, He (Jesus) felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and downcast like sheep without a shepherd."

b. Put on a Heart of Christ-like Kindness

Colossians 3:12 "So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness..."

kindness = Greek: chrestotes = goodness, gentleness, excellence, uprightness, not harsh, doesn't chafe, isn't severe

(cf. Matt. 11:30; Jn. 4; Jn. 8; Titus 3:4; Rom. 2:4; 11:22; Eph. 2:7)

c. Put on a Heart of Christ-like Humility

Colossians 3:12 "So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility..."

humility = Greek: tapeinophrosune = lowliness of mind vs. high view of self cf. Col. 2:18, 23; Phil. 2:3-8

- 1 Pet. 5:5 "...all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble."

d. Put on a Heart of Christ-like Gentleness

Colossians 3:12 "So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness..." gentleness = Greek: prautes = strength under control, meekness

- 2 Corinthians 10:1 " Now I, Paul, myself urge you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ..."
- Matthew 11:29 Jesus said of Himself "I am meek (Greek: prautes = gentle) and lowly in heart."

• Gentleness is the garment we need to put on when we are correcting someone.

Galatians 6:1 "if a man is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness..."

• Gentleness is the garment we need to put on when we are defending our faith.

1 Peter 3:15 "...always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence..."

• Gentleness is the garment we need to put on in many of life's confusing circumstances.

cf. James 3:13 re: "the gentleness of wisdom." gentleness = "the grace of the soul"

e. Put on a Heart of Christ-like Patience

Colossians 3:12 "So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience..." patience = Greek: makrothumia = longsuffering, not short-tempered

• 1 Timothy 1:16 "...I found mercy, in order that in me as the foremost, Jesus Christ might demonstrate His perfect patience, as an example for those who would believe in Him for eternal life." (cf. Rom. 2:4; 9:22; 2 Pet. 3:15; Gal. 5:22).

The Accessories to Patience: "...bearing with one another, and forgiving each other..." (Colossians 3:13)

f. Putting on a Heart of Christ-like Forbearance

Colossians 3:13 "bearing with one another" Greek: anecho = putting up with, holding up cf. Matt.17:17

• 1 Corinthians 4:12 "...when we are reviled, we bless; when we are persecuted, we endure" — i.e. we bear with one another.

g. Putting on a Heart of Christ-like Forgiveness

Colossians 3:13 "...forgiving each other..." Greek: charizomai = handing over, granting forgiveness even when undeserved

Colossians 2:13 "And when you were dead in your transgressions...He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions..."

• Ephesians 4:32 "...be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you."

h. Putting on a Heart of Christ-like Love

Colossians 3:14 "Beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity."

love = Greek: agape = self-sacrifice, value

John 13:35 "By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

2. The Finished Product: UNITY!

Colossians 3:14 "Beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity (Greek: sundesmos)."

Ephesians 4:3 "...being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."

Concluding Challenge:

- Putting off the old garments of the flesh.
- Putting on the new clothes of Christ-likeness.
- Showing off your spiritual wardrobe to the world.

"Lord Jesus, thank you for our new spiritual wardrobe. May we wear your attributes of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, forbearance, forgiveness and love as handsomely as you do."

Prayer Requests:



Growth Group Homework

For the week of October 28, 2012

SERMON SERIES: COLOSSIANS

Message Title: "Our Spiritual Wardrobe - Part 2"

Dr. Jim Cecy

October 28, 2012

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. Have you ever shown up to an event and realized that you were dressed inappropriately? How did people react to you? Why is what we wear so important?
2. This week we continued looking at our "spiritual wardrobe" in Colossians 3:8-14. Would you say that you spend more time and effort trying to put off the old clothes of anger, wrath, malice, slander and abusive speech or trying to put on the new clothes of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience? Why might this be an important indicator of how you view the Christian life?

DIGGING DEEPER

3. All of the articles in our spiritual wardrobe should reflect the character of Christ, because He is the ultimate example of what to "put on" spiritually (Rom. 13:14). In the passages that follow, examine how Christ modeled compassion, patience and humility for us.

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Compassion. Read John 8:1-11.

- Describe the attitude of the scribes and Pharisees.
- What do you think Jesus wrote on the ground with His finger?
- Based on what Jesus said to the crowd, why should we have compassion on others? When others are caught in sin, are you quick to pass judgment?

Patience. Read Mark 9:14-29.

- What do you observe here that could have been frustrating for Jesus, and how did He demonstrate patience?
- When people or situations frustrate you, how do you tend to respond?

Humility. Read John 13:1-17.

- Jesus twice identifies himself as Teacher and Lord in this passage. How does he teach and lead here?
- Would you have more trouble washing someone else's feet or allowing them to wash yours? Why?

TAKING IT HOME

4. Look again at the articles of clothing in God's spiritual wardrobe (Col. 3:12-13). Is there one that you find harder or more uncomfortable to wear than the others? If so, why? Is there one particular outfit that you sense God encouraging or challenging you to put on?
5. What main point are you going to take away from the sermon this week?