

**PUTTING ON CHRIST'S VIRTUES
LETTING CHRIST'S PEACE RULE – PART 1 OF 4
COLOSSIANS 3:12**

DECISIVE ACTION

1. Paul listed six vices: **anger**, rage, **malice**, slander, filthy language, and deceitfulness (Col. 3:8-9).
2. Put on the “new **self**” with its appropriate attributes and **attitudes** (Col. 3:10).
3. “Clothe” yourselves decisively and **intentionally** with these **virtues**.

KEY THOUGHT: My **outward** behavior as a Christian should demonstrate my **inward** transformation (Col. 3:10).

I. GOD'S FREE, SOVEREIGN GRACE GIVES ACCESS TO CHRIST'S VIRTUE (COL. 3:12a).

“Those who have been chosen of God”

- A. No one becomes a Christian **solely** by his own choice (John 15:16; Eph. 1:4).
 1. **Before** the foundation of the world, God **formed** His children (Eph. 1:4).
 2. God's choice was sovereign and **without merit**, so our salvation is not a source of **pride** (John 15:16).
 3. Calling upon the name of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior **brings salvation** (Rom. 10:13).

- B. Believers are God's **own** and are especially **loved** (Col. 3:12a).

“... holy and beloved...”

1. “Holy” means to “be set apart” or to be **separated** from the rest of mankind.
2. “Beloved” means to be **objects** of God's special divine love.

KEY THOUGHT: God's initiation of our salvation diminishes human **pride**, exalts God, and produces **gratitude** for God's love and provision (2 Tim. 1:8-9).

II. PUTTING ON CHRIST'S VIRTUES (COL. 3:12b)

The following qualities are to cover the new man...

- A. A heart of compassion
 - 1. Internal seat of emotions from where deep-seated compassion wells up (Luke 6:26; James 5:11)
 - 2. A heart of compassion prevents believers from being indifferent to suffering.

- B. Kindness is gentle and humble hearted as epitomized by the Good Samaritan (Matt. 11:29-30; Luke 10:25-37).

- C. Humility is an antidote for the self-love of mankind (Phil. 2:3-4).

- D. Gentleness is the willingness to suffer injury rather than inflict it.
 - 1. A gentle person knows he is a redeemed sinner among other sinners and is willing to suffer the burdens others' sin may impose on Him.
 - 2. The gentleness can only be produced by the Holy Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23).

- E. Patience is demonstrated by not getting angry at others.
 - 1. Patience is the opposite of resentment and revenge.
 - 2. God's patience forestalls His wrath so any can saved (2 Pet. 3:15).

KEY THOUGHT: Paul gives us God's command to "put on" these virtues and to be covered by them all (Col. 3:12).

FOR FURTHER STUDY AND PERSONAL GROWTH

October 2, 2011

SUNDAY: *Our outward behavior should demonstrate the Christians' inner transformation (Col. 3:10)!* Our lives as Christians demand some decisive actions. These include the fleeing of specific sins and the embracing of the virtues of godliness in our lives. Paul listed six vices to avoid; anger, rage, malice, slander, filthy language, and deceitfulness (Col. 3:8-9). Additionally, Paul outlined putting on the "new self" with its appropriate attributes and attitudes (Col. 3:10). The command was to "clothe" oneself decisively and intentionally with these virtues of Christ. The result is that a Christian's outward behavior should demonstrate his inner transformation (Col. 3:10). Have you thought through the vices you are to leave behind? How do they manifest themselves in your life? Petition the Lord to show you this week where you can grow in "wearing" these virtues. ***May this be an exciting and rewarding week that produces spiritual growth in your life!***

MONDAY: *Conviction of sin is God's initial call of the sinner to salvation (John 15:16)!* No one becomes a Christian solely by his own choice. God is a sovereign God. If He is sovereign in one area of His creation, He is sovereign in all of them which would include salvation. The Bible says that before the foundation of the world God knew His children (Eph. 1:4). God stirs up our feelings for Him by convicting us of our sin. The conviction brought to us by the Holy Spirit is not because we have earned or merited it, but because it was God's sovereign choice. God initiating our salvation is wonderful because it defeats our sinful pride (John 15:16). Yet, we must call upon the name of the Lord to be redeemed. And everyone that calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved (Rom. 10:13). The sovereign call from God and the act of man calling upon God form a perfect union resulting in a man's salvation (John 14:6). Praise God for your salvation. Have you ever been a serious aid to someone seeking Christ? Could you share the gospel to assist someone who wanted to know Jesus? Pray for the unction to be prepared for the day when you will be given the chance to be present at the moment of someone's birth into the kingdom of God.

TUESDAY: *Believers are God's own children (Col. 3:12b)!* Believers are God's own and are especially loved (Col. 3:12a). Believers are to be holy because God is holy (1 Pet. 1:16). "Holy" means "to be set apart" or to be separated from the rest of mankind. There is supposed to be a complete and utter difference in the character and life of a Christian than someone who is unredeemed. A separate cut all together. "Beloved" means to be the object of God's own special love. God loves mankind, but His own are beloved. The beloved are provided for and nurtured. It is important to be decisive and intentional to allow the virtues of Christ to be lived through you. Ask the Lord for a clear head as you study this week. Be decisive and do not back down from these all-consuming virtues. ***May this week be significant for your personal growth because you have taken a step forward and will not relinquish!***

WEDNESDAY: *The new man in Christ has a heart of compassion (Luke 6:36)!* In Greek thought, the heart represents the seat of emotions. Hence, our statement, "Give your heart to Jesus." It is from this deep seat of emotions that compassion wells up within a person. The Christian is compassionate because his God is compassionate (Luke 6:36). His mercy and

love have been very prominent in our lives (James 5:11). It is this heart of compassion that God uses to keep His children from becoming indifferent to suffering. Sorrow for the suffering of others should be present in the life of every believer. Have you cultivated a compassionate heart that finds ways to ease the suffering of others? You may ease someone's suffering by investing time in assisting their plight, or to share a skill with them. Ask the Lord to show you people around you who are suffering and to illuminate how you can help ease their pain. ***May the development of greater compassion quicken your heart to the desperate need of people to know the Lord as Savior!***

THURSDAY: *The new man in Christ demonstrates kindness and humility (Matt. 11:29-30)!*

Salvation can give the searching man rest because that which could not be done by himself was completed by God for him (Matt. 11:29-30). This relief generates a kindness that is gentle and humble as epitomized in the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37). The humility of Christ is the antidote for the self-love of mankind (Phil 2:3-4). The Christian is to live his life without creating rivalry or strife. Pursuit of your own way is set aside for the greater good of others. In fact, the goal is to strive for the good of others with the same effort as you would to satisfy your own wishes and desires. It is important to keep your own needs at a minimum if you really desire to acquire these virtues. The smaller your needs, the easier it is to give way to the needs and desires of others. Pray for the wisdom to desire less and simplify what you have now. ***May this simple, but powerful lesson bring enormous dividends into your life!***

FRIDAY: *The new man in Christ displays gentleness (Gal. 5:22-23)!*

Gentleness is the willingness to suffer injury rather than inflict it on others. Biblical gentleness is displayed by the person who knows that he is a redeemed sinner among other sinners and is willing to suffer the burdens others' sin may impose on Him. Gentleness cannot be faked and is not easy to acquire. This gentleness can only be produced by the Holy Spirit with the gifts of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23). Living with godly gentleness prevents anger and bitterness from settling into your life. Forgiveness comes much easier to a gentle person. Others are drawn to someone whose heart is so much like Jesus Himself. Petition the Lord to expose where you struggle with selfishness. Ask the Holy Spirit to soften these areas of lust or cravings. Seek to place others' interests above those of your own. ***May this be a great test from which you can learn the boundaries where you wish to go as you grow in the Lord!***

SATURDAY: *The new man in Christ is patient (2 Pet. 3:15)!*

Patience is demonstrated by not becoming angry at others when the world says you have a right to do so. Patience is willing to work with someone to develop a solution even if the person has taken advantage of you before. Patience is the opposite of resentment or revenge. Patience pursues peace at nearly any cost. Patience is the heart and mind of God that has forestalled His wrath so any could be saved (2 Pet. 3:15). Patience is necessary if all of these virtues are going to be "put on" as God commands (Col. 3:12). Where are you going to begin? Which virtue do you need to study in scripture to more fully understand and embrace it? Ask the Lord to help you cultivate patience and humility and gentleness as key places to begin. ***May this prove to be "the" turning point of your entire Christian life!***