

LOVE ONE ANOTHER
LETTING CHRIST'S PEACE RULE – PART 2 OF 4
COLOSSIANS 3:13-14

THE VIRTUES OF CHRIST

1. The virtues that are to **cover** the new man are to be put on as you would put on **clothes** (Col. 3:12).
2. These godly qualities are (Col. 3:12):
 - ◆ A heart of **compassion** – “pity” and “mercy”
 - ◆ **Kindness** – “concerned about others’ needs as much as your own”
 - ◆ **Humility** – “valuing God’s priorities over your own”
 - ◆ **Gentleness** – “willing to suffer injury than inflict it”
 - ◆ **Patience** – “opposite of resentment and rage”

KEY THOUGHT: Paul has outlined the believer’s **identity** in Christ which should lead the believer toward **righteous** behavior (Col. 3:12).

I. DEAL WITH OTHERS THE WAY CHRIST DEALS WITH US (COL. 3:13).

- A. “Bearing with **one another**” (Col. 3:13a)
 1. God-honoring endurance “to hold out in spite of persecution, threats, injury, indifference, or complaints without **retaliating**” (1 Cor. 4:12).
 2. Believers are to bear with one another and **overlook** any issues they can (Eph. 4:2).
- B. “**Forgiving** one another” (Col. 3:13b).
 1. The practice of forgiveness means “to be **gracious**” which requires the virtues of **gentleness** and kindness.
 2. The Scripture uses a reflexive pronoun indicating the church is to be a gracious, **mutually** forgiving fellowship (Col. 3:13b).
 3. Paul outlines Christ as the **model** of forgiveness that **compels** the believer to forgive (Eph. 4:32; Matt. 18:21-35).

KEY THOUGHT: “Whoever has a complaint against anyone” refers to our feelings against anyone who has **sinned** against us or anyone else and the forgiveness that they should be **granted** (Col. 3:13).

II. GROW IN CHARITY (COL. 3:14).

- A. A Christian is to **clothe** himself with all the virtues of Christ outlined in Colossians 3:12.
1. The key garment that ties it all together is **love** (charity) (Col. 3:14).
 2. The motivation for Christian fellowship is **pure** God-honoring **love** for one another (Rom. 13:10).
- B. A Christian trying to practice the virtues of verse 12 and the examples of Christ in verse 13 **without love** will become stiff and legalistic (Col. 3:14).
1. Love is the **glue** that produces unity in the church.
 2. Love is the **beauty** of the believer that dispels the **ugly** sins of the flesh that destroy unity.

KEY THOUGHT: Christian charity (love) is the “graduate degree” in the “School of the Holy Spirit” in which we **grow** in the **grace** of Christ (2 Pet. 3:17-18; 1 Cor. 13:1-13).

FOR FURTHER STUDY AND PERSONAL GROWTH

October 16, 2011

SUNDAY: A Christian is to put on the virtues of Christ (Col. 3:12)! We have discussed that Paul wrote a divinely inspired command for us to “Put On” the virtues of Christ as if they were outer garments for the Christian (Col. 3:12). The command was clear, and the garments were specifically named and described. These godly qualities are a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience (v. 12). They are a hierarchy that is gained one at a time through maturity in Christ. The believer’s identity should be fashioned from these garments. Paul outlined the believer’s identify in Christ which should then lead to righteous behavior (Col. 3:12). Have you developed a heart of compassion? Do you have a deep sense of pity and overflowing mercy for those that you encounter in sin, especially those that are brothers in Christ? Have you moved on to kindness, humility, or further? Ask the Lord with a clear petition to identify the obstacles that are preventing you from “putting on” each of these garments. *May this be an exciting adventure for those who have been Christians longer and are ready to step forward to the next challenge of spiritual maturity!*

MONDAY: Christians are to “bear with one another” (Col. 3:13a)! How much trouble in the flock of God would be avoided if only the saints would learn to put up with one another? We see one attempt to correct someone else publicly, which may very well indicate his own insecurity. Why bother about correcting minor errors that strain relationships. It is easier to “bear with one another” than create a pecking order that becomes a biblical and ministry hierarchy. Mercy and grace should abound in the church so that abrasive personalities are soothed. Instead, God-honoring endurance means “to hold out in spite of persecution, threats, injury, indifference, or complaints without retaliating” (1 Cor. 4:12). This is especially true between believers. Believers are to bear with one another and overlook any issues they can (Eph. 4:2). Choose to show the virtues of Christ and pray for those that you find yourself needing to hold your speech. Diligently lift them before the Lord and ask for wisdom to love them more fully. *May this lesson bring peace and contentment to your spirit and life!*

TUESDAY: Christians are to “forgive one another” (Col. 3:13b)! Forgiveness is an important practice for a Christian. Practicing forgiveness means “to be gracious” in the face of difficult circumstances. Forgiveness requires the virtues of gentleness and kindness. The portion of scripture uses a reflexive pronoun to indicate that the church is to be a gracious, mutually forgiving fellowship (Col. 3:13b). Paul outlines Christ as the model of forgiveness that compels the believer to forgive (Matt. 18:21-35). Christians are to forgive each other just as Christ has forgiven us (Eph. 4:32), forgiving one another even before the offending party asks. Is there someone that you need to forgive? What about communicating that forgiveness after you have offered it in your heart? Pray for the ability to forgive and forget offenses that others bring your way. *May the act forgiving be seen as crucial in your life as a Christian!*

WEDNESDAY: *Believers are to offer forgiveness to others because Christ forgave them of their sin (Col. 3:13)!* Paul suggests that we deal with others the way Christ dealt with us. It would be tragic if Christ had dealt with us as we deal with others. “Whoever has a complaint against anyone” refers to our feeling against anyone who has sinned against us or anyone else and the forgiveness they should be granted (Col. 3:13). Forgiveness can become a way of life that frees you from sadness and pain. A lifestyle of forgiveness does require that you “put on” the virtues of Christ. These virtues are obviously the outward manifestations of the inner maturity sought for each believer (Col. 1:28-29). Ask the Lord to be clear and obvious about why you struggle to put on these garments. *May the Lord bring victory in your life as you seek to “put on” the godliness of your Lord!*

THURSDAY: *Christians are to clothe themselves in all the virtues of Christ and complete the attire with the top coat of “love” (Col. 3:14)!* Grow in charity. It is a sense of giving that displays the depth of affection that one has for someone else. The virtues of Christ are described as garments that the Christian is commanded to “put on”. The key garment, or top coat, is love (charity) (Col. 3:14). It is a loving charity that demonstrates itself in giving, like our Heavenly Father giving us His Son (John 3:16). The motivation for Christian fellowship is pure God-honoring love for one another (Rom. 13:10). Love ties all the other virtues together. It tightens the relationship between each of the various virtues: a compassionate heart, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Are you a charitable, giving person? Do you look to give of yourself and your experience to others for their benefit? Come before the Lord with the intention of learning to be a giver like God. Seek to learn to give sacrificially without even the expectation of gratitude. *May the Lord bring you into a deeper appreciation for who He is and what He wants you to be in Him!*

FRIDAY: *Love keeps the Christian from becoming legalistic and rigid (Col. 3:14)!* If you try to practice the virtues outlined in verse 12 and display the examples of Christ in verse 13 without love, you will become stiff and legalistic (Col. 3:14). Love is the glue that produces unity in the church. Love is the beauty of the believer that dispels the ugly sins of the flesh that destroy unity. Love is not optional or can be dispensed in doses as needed. Love is to emanate from a fire hose and cover all that we do as Christians. Stop and look carefully at your motivations. Do you parcel out your love based on how people treat you? Is your love a reward for pleasing behavior? That is not the love, or charity, that is being described in this passage or similar ones in scripture. Pray for the Holy Spirit to give you the freedom to love as God loves each of us, without boundaries and qualifications. *May your practice of love help you really begin to “put on” the garments of godliness!*

SATURDAY: *Charity, in the broad sense of giving, is a primary quality of love (2 Pet. 3:17-18)!* As was said earlier, God gave His dearest and best to save man who had rejected Him (John 3:16). Likewise, Jesus so loved the people that He was willing to die for them (Eph. 5:2). Creation is said to have sprung from God’s love of giving. The eleven disciples did finally give themselves wholeheartedly to the mission that Jesus called them to and prepared them for. These men were the “getters” who received the love of Jesus and were transformed by it. Judas was not a “getter” or transformed. Are you going to be a “getter”? Are you going to be transformed by the love of Jesus and the garments of godliness? Commit yourself to the process today. Commit wholeheartedly. *May the love of Christ let His peace rule in your life!*