

Colossians 3:11–14

¹¹ Here there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.

¹² Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering;

¹³ bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.

¹⁴ But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.

Putting On the New Man Colossians 3:11-14

INTRO:

Paul stated who were involved in this putting off the old self and putting on the new self, and then detailed five virtues that are to be put on in place of the five vices that need to be put off.

I. Who are required to put off the old self and put on the new (v. 11)

II. What are the Believers to put off and put on (v. 12-14)

I. Who are required to put off the old self and put on the new (v. 11)

Colossians 3:11 *“Here there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.”*

A. Remember Paul wrote about the great privileges we enjoy because we have put our trust in Christ and He has saved us. We have been changed. In our union with Him we have died together with Him, we are resurrected with Him to newness of life. Because of this change there needs to be a change in our lives. This is a life-long product of the divine human co-operative we read about in **Philippians 2:12-13**.

B. This transformation which is a result of our salvation is not just for one kind of people. The four pairs of nouns describe who is able to be saved.

1. From the Greeks perspective, they thought the whole world was made up of those who were Greeks and those who wished they were Greeks. So, from their perspective they needed to understand that this included both the Greeks and the Jews.

2. To the Jews there were those who were circumcised and those who were not. Circumcision or its lack did not change their ability to grow in grace.

3. There was the economic category, those in slavery (60 % of the population) or those free. Anyone could grow in Christ. Anyone who took Christ as Savior, (to who Christ was all) and any who because of their faith were joined to Christ (Christ in all), could be saved and grow up into Him who is the Head the Lord Jesus Christ.

II. What are the Believers to put off and put on (v. 12-14).

Colossians 3:12–14 *“Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.”*

A. Paul told us we need to put on the new man (like putting on clothes. Now he described what this believer’s new clothes looked like. There are five nouns and an all-inclusive quality in **verse 14**.

B. We will try to quickly define these qualities and then talk about how we put them on. We do all of this because of who we are in Christ:

v.12 *“Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved.”*

1. What are we to clothes ourselves in? First we are to put on *“tender mercies.”* This is mercy which comes from deep within us. This is compassion that has its root in the compassion Christ has shown us. We are dressing with tender mercies to replace the negative qualities in **verse 8**, *“anger, wrath, malice.”* We cannot just take these qualities off. We must replace them with compassion.

2. There are three qualities that must replace our anger, wrath, and malice. They are, *“kindness, humility, meekness.”* Kindness means *“gentleness, kindness, or goodness.”* This is found in the list of the Fruit of the Spirit. *“Humility”* is genuine humility in contrast with the false humility of the false teachers. This humility is defined in **Philippians 2** as our putting others before ourselves because Jesus put us before Himself. Finally, *“meekness”* is a quality we are to learn from Jesus in **Matthew 11:29**;

“Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”

This is best described as recognizing God has a right to what He wants to do with our lives.

3. We have covered three of four qualities, let us look at the fifth noun.

“Longsuffering” means just what it says. We are to suffer long with people, in other words be patient with them. How do we do this? The next phrases describe this in action. Paul wrote,

v.13 *“Bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.”*

If we are to put these qualities on we will find that it demands we put Christ and others before ourselves.

4. The last thing we must put on is **“love.”**

v.14 *“But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.”*

We must love one another in the way that Christ loved us. This completes the circle of God’s love for us and in us because He has saved us.

C. Now how do we do all this? We have learned that some of these qualities are found in the list of the fruit of the Spirit in **Galatians 5**. To see how this works we need to walk through the context of that text.

1. In **Galatians 5:16-17**, the Apostle set down the principle and defined our warfare in our walk.

“I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.”

2. The horrible list in **Galatians 5:19-21** are the deeds of the flesh. Many of things Paul commands us to kill or put off in **Colossians 3** are found in this list. Paul wrote in verse 21,

“[The list of evil deeds] of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.”

3. Next comes the paragraph we like **Galatians 5:22-23**.

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.”

4. Here is how we put on that which the Spirit of God produces in us as we work together with Him.

Galatians 5:24–25 *“And those who are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.”*

Crucifying the flesh is putting on Christ and cutting the supply line to the flesh. Finally, walking in the spirit is walking in active obedience to the Spirit of God by confessing our sins and doing His word. This is the beginning of a long road of fighting with sin, having some success and some failure, but each time getting up and going again.

Why is this so important? The warnings in Galatians about allowing the works of the flesh dominate our lives is clear. To that let me add one more.

Hebrews 12:14 *“Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord.”*