

## PUTTING ON

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### Text: Colossians 3:12-17 NKJV

*<sup>12</sup>Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; <sup>13</sup>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. <sup>14</sup>But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. <sup>15</sup>And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. <sup>16</sup>Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. <sup>17</sup>And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.*

### A. Introduction: A quick recap

Ch 1 +2 Paul says a lot about the identity of Jesus!

Ch 1 + 2 Paul says a lot about our identity as Christians!

Ch 3 Living out our new identity in Christ

Putting off and putting on (Putting off v.1-11; Putting on v.12-17)

V.5-11 Because of our new identity, certain things are no longer appropriate behaviours

So the big goal is living true to our new identity! We are in Jesus. We must look like Him!

### Spot the difference:

What needs to be added? What needs to be taken away?

Place myself alongside Jesus:

What have I got that He doesn't have? That has to go! Put it off

What has He got that I don't have? That must come! Put it on

Last week we looked at putting off; today we will explore putting on

### 3:9 Put off the old man with his deeds

### 3:10 Put on the new man created in the image of Jesus

Both are absolutely essential if we are going to look more like Jesus.

(This is not an outward show; but a deep work from the heart!)

True circumcision is not something visible in the flesh, but of the heart (cut off).

Things we put on can also not be an outward show – but must come from within!

What does the process look like?

1. I look at Jesus (awesome / beauty / perfect character / I am in awe of Him!)
2. I look at me – through the eyes of my new identity (I am dead to my old ways)

Your new identity: 3:3 You died! And your life is now hidden with Christ in God

I am made new in Jesus – I have a stunning new identity! This is who you are!! (This is your reference point; this is your starting point.)

3. What is inappropriate behaviour for who I am now?

How do Jesus and I compare? What needs to go? (*I look less like the world*)

[Fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, covetousness, anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language, lies, prejudice]

How do Jesus and I compare? What needs to be added?

## **B. Today's passage: Colossians 3:12-17**

Notice again how our starting point is: who we are in Christ / our new identity...

**Elect:** chosen by Him; selected; implication = favourite

**Holy:** set apart for God, by God; holiness is the natural state of God – sinless, perfect; we share in this through the blood of Jesus

**Beloved:** loved by Him; longed for; taken pleasure in; delighted in

## **C. Putting on:**

Remember your identity: 'You died and your life is hidden with Christ in God' (Colossians 3:3)

'Reckon yourselves dead to sin, but alive to God.' (Romans 6:11)

We have put off / died to many things.

But now we are alive to God and so we put on many new things.

We have an incredibly exciting new life to live out! (Not just 'avoid sin at all costs')

## **So what does it mean to 'put on'?**

Imagery – clothing / outward adornment can give the wrong picture in our minds.

(1 Peter 3; clothing / hair / gold - not the focus – but the hidden person of the heart)

You can see me put on the jacket, but you can't watch me gain the 2 kg's I have added in the past year. That happened on the inside!

When I put on the attitudes of Christ, something happens on the inside.

You see and feel the effects of that on the outside when I engage with you, but it's not an outward show!

I am not pretending to be like Jesus; I am being transformed in my inner man into the likeness of Jesus (and living that out).

So what am I supposed to 'put on'?

The list can be pretty intimidating - if we think we have to do it in our own strength;

But **God does the transforming work and we just give ourselves fully to the process.** (See Philippians 2:12-13)

Put on / clothe yourselves with:

- **Compassion:** Pity / mercy / give grace and favour – not just a feeling, it's action
- **Kindness:** demonstration / goodness-doing good / treating well / opp. of abusive
- **Humility:** lowliness of mind / modesty / opp. of pride, me first / preferring others  
Romans 12:10
- **Gentleness:** mildness / meekness / opp. of harsh, rough
- **Patience:** forbearance / longsuffering / fortitude

These things take guts! Real men / with heart and passion / not passivity!

All of these items that we are to put on, are attributes of God.

We have been on the receiving end (from Him), now we are called to give these to others

That was verse 12, but the list goes on as Paul continues to write (v.13)

- **Bearing with one another:** persist / endure / have patience with / make allowance for each others' faults / put up with one another / tolerate one another

The big question always is – for how long?

- **Forgiving one another:** to pardon someone – even though your complaint or grievance or quarrel is valid! They have a fault; you have good reason to apportion blame. You have someTHING against someONE.

Don't deny it – just because you know it's not a good Christian thing.

V.13B Give pardon! As Christ forgave you... just as / in the same manner (limitless)

What a gift! Imitate Jesus!

And now for the big one! (v.14)

- **Put on love:** agape / sacrificial love

Love is the perfect bond of unity

Love – which binds everything together in perfect harmony / unity

Everything = all of these virtues or everyone of us

Perfect bond = Perfection / maturity / completeness

### **Three final reminders for our hearts:**

- The **peace** of God (v.15)

Let it rule / govern / umpire in your heart (your thoughts / feelings / inner world)

It is the outflow of forgiveness

We are called to be at peace / in unity - as one body (in marriage; family; church; team)

And be thankful! Gratitude – when we arrive at that place

- The **word** of Christ (v.16)

What He said / His message / His expressions

They are to dwell richly in us (occupy lots of space in your hearts) so give it room, don't squeeze it out

We are to teach and admonish, to instruct and to warn one another

with grace (or gratitude) in our hearts. (Back to the theme of thankfulness)

- **Thanksgiving** to God (v.17)

Do everything in His name / on His behalf / represent Him well

NLT – As a representative of the Lord Jesus... do these things

You will do this well if, in your heart surgery, you have put off and put on all that we have handled in these past two weeks!

Lifestyle of gratitude: Giving thanks to God the Father through Jesus!

Because of all that was accomplished through Christ and because of all that that has meant in my life and because of who He has made me to be – transformed by Him - I have reason to give Him thanks!

### **D. Our response:**

What is appropriate behaviour for my new identity in Him?

Compassion	Kindness	Humility
Gentleness	Patience	Endurance
Forgiveness	Love	
Peace within	His Word within	Gratitude overflowing

So what should I do if these things are missing? Put them on! (Like the armour...) Deal with the enemy; deal with the people (two different actions)

### **How are you doing?**

Do you look like Jesus when you engage with the people around you?

What do you need to put on? Today I put on....(your choice)

Forgiveness is a huge one: it has always been a choice.

Will you offer someone undeserved pardon?

For the really big item... the rape, the murder, the adultery, the embezzlement, the character assassination...

(It may not be the end of a process of restoration – normally it is the beginning.)

You have a new identity; you operate in a new way; this is the real you, looking like Jesus.

You are chosen by God; made holy by God; deeply loved by God – therefore you can put on His attributes, look like Jesus, represent Him well and make it very difficult for people to spot the difference!

### **Let's pray!**

Final encouragement:

You died – and your life is now hidden with Christ in God (3:3)