

TITLE: Colossians (Lesson 13)

TEXT: Col. 3:12-14

INTRO: We have learned in chapter 3 that because of our position in Christ (risen with Christ) we are to set our “affection on things above, not on things on the earth.” Paul tells us how to do this. In vs. 5 we are told to put to death sensual sins. In vs. 8-9 we are commanded to put off the deeds of the “old man” (who we were before we got saved). At the moment of salvation we became a “new man which is renewed in knowledge...”. So now that we have **put to death** and **put off** all these things, it’s time to **put on** our Christian clothes!

I. (vs. 12a) Dress for success.

NOTE: Remember what God has done for us.

A. “the elect of God”

NOTE: Eph. 1:4-5; John 1:11-13

B. “holy” or “set apart by God.”

C. “beloved” or “dearly loved.”

II. (vs. 12b-13) It’s about character and values.

NOTE: “Each of these virtues involves personal relationships...So when Paul told the Colossians to ‘put on’ these virtues, he was telling them to put on the character of Christ.”
David Jeremiah

A. Put on **bowels of mercies**. (tender compassion)

B. Put on **kindness**. (gentleness)

NOTE: Eph. 4:32

C. Put on **humbleness of mind**. (humility)

D. Put on **meekness**. (strength under control)

NOTE: Examples of Moses (Num. 12:3) and Christ (2 Cor. 10:1; I Pet. 2:23).

E. Put on **longsuffering; bearing with one another**. (patience)

NOTE: “Significantly, Paul focused on the individual who is to have patience, rather than the one who caused a problem. The place to begin in any group tension is with oneself rather than others.”
Richard Melick

F. Put on **forgiveness**. (just as Christ forgave us)

NOTE: Eph. 4:32 Forgive for Christ’s sake unconditionally and freely, to extend grace. See Micah 7:19 and Ps. 103:12. We are to forgive as we have been forgiven. **Quarrel** means **complaint** or **grievances**.

III. (vs. 14) It’s about a mindset of love.

A. Love is what motivates us to action.

NOTE: Love for God and others are the greatest commandments. (Mark 12:29-31) Love is like cream that floats to the top. (I Cor. 13:13) The fruit of the Spirit starts with love. (Gal. 5:22)

B. Love “is the bond of perfectness.” (godly maturity)

NOTE: “How completely divine love is fused with the other virtues as it binds them together into one harmonious whole and makes them usable.”
Kenneth Wuest