

The Epistle to the Colossians

‘Col 3:12-14 - The Attitude of Those Chosen of God’

• Col 3:12 – “Therefore, as elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering;”

- What’s it *therefore*?
 - Because we have been told to put off the *old man* and to put on the *new* (Col 3:8-11)!
 - Also that Jews and Gentiles are the same before God.
- We are now reminded that we are *elect (chosen) of God*.
 - What comes to mind when you consider that you are *elect of God*?
 - Let’s not get hung up with Calvinism vs. Armenianism here; how about our identification with the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - » *Luke 23:35 - And the people stood looking on. But even the rulers with them sneered, saying, “He saved others; let Him save Himself if **He is the Christ, the chosen of God.**”*
 - » *Rom 8:30 - Moreover whom He **predestined**, these He also **called**; whom He **called**, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.*
 - Further modified by being called *holy (set apart)* and *beloved (agapao)*.



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- Now having put on (be clothed with) the *new man*, His nature in us must (imperative) follow – how?
- *tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering* are all fruits of the Spirit (*Gal 5:22,23*)
 - *tender mercies* – best translated here as *compassion, sensitivity*
 - *kindness* – *benignity* or *warm-heartedness, sweet disposition*
 - *humility* – *a deep sense of one's moral ineptness*
 - How often this fails to be recognized and demonstrated and I believe is essential for manifesting the other attributes of the *new man* listed here!
 - *meekness* – *gentleness*
 - *Wuest* - "Meekness" is *praotēs* , "an inwrought grace of the soul, that temper of spirit in which we accept God's dealings with us as good, and therefore without disputing or resisting..... This meekness, however, being first of all a meekness before God, is also such in the face of men, even of evil men, out of a sense that these, with the insults and injuries which they may inflict, are permitted and employed by God for the chastening and purifying of His elect" (Trench).
 - *longsuffering* – *patience, forbearance* or *slowness in avenging wrongs*



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• Col 3:13 – “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.”

- This is all *new man* isn't it - the Cross manifested in our lives!
 - *forbearing* (present middle participle) – putting up with others and enduring discomfort
- *if anyone has a complaint against another*
 - *forgiving* (*charizomai*) – no grudges, no grievances
 - Notice Greek for forgiving here, *charizomai* – grace based)
- Both forbearing and forgiving remind me of one of our brothers
 - » Court Hemenway – ‘we (*old man*) choose to be offended.’
- *even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.*
 - The tense is imperative – do it (*new man*)!
 - Why isn't this law?



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- *Rom 13:8 - Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law.*
- *1 Peter 2:21 - For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps:*

•Col 3:14 – “But (and) above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.”

- *But above all (beyond) these things put on love*
 - What other passage of scripture does this remind us of?
 - How are we doing here?
 - What kind of *love (agape)* is this?
 - How do we *put this love on*?
 - » Of interest, *put on love* is a phrase with no verb.
 - » *1 John 2:5 - But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him.*
- *which is the bond of perfection (completeness)*
 - Thayer - "that in which all the virtues are so bound together that perfection is the result, and not one of them is wanting to that perfection."



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- So without *love* do these other attributes of the Christ life have no merit?
 - Perhaps *verse 14* should have preceded the others?
 - » *1 Peter 4:8 - And above all things have fervent love for one another*
 - If we *love* one another, God's *love* is perfected in us.
 - *1 Tim 1:5 - Now the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and from sincere faith,*
 - *1 John 4:12 - No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us.*