

"Living out the Virtues of the Christian Life"

Part 1

Colossians 3:12-17

Introduction: We took 7 studies to look at how Paul explained that since we are crucified with Christ that we have no put off the old man and put on the new man. Paul told us that they were not who we used to be. We are new creations in Christ and the sins of our past should not have any place in our lives. There are many verses that tell us we are not who we used to be.

Romans 6:6-13

⁶ *Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.*

⁷ *For he that is dead is freed from sin.*

⁸ *Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him:*

⁹ *Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him.*

¹⁰ *For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God.*

¹¹ *Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

¹² *Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.*

¹³ *Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.*

2 Corinthians 5:17

¹⁷ *Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*

Galatians 2:19-20

¹⁹ *For I through the law am dead to the law, that I might live unto God.*

²⁰ *I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.*

Galatians 5:24-25

²⁴ *And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.*

²⁵ *If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.*

These are just a few verses that speak of how we are new in Jesus Christ. So, now the question is, "What does this look like practically for each of us?" In other words, "What does this look like as it is lived out in our lives?" These questions are answered in Colossians 3:12-17 and that is what we are going to study for the next couple of weeks.

➤ **Three titles of the believer**

Notice Colossians 3:12a

As Paul begins here, he gives us three words that describe us as believers and they are here to encourage us to live out what is going to follow.

1. Elect

This word has been misused many times by Bible teachers. To be called the "elect" means that we as members of the body of Jesus Christ we are the earthly representatives of the Lord. In the Old Testament Israel is called the elect because they were God's earthly representatives to the world. God desired for them to be separate from the other nations so that they could manifest God to the world.

Isaiah 49:5-6

⁵ *And now, saith the LORD that formed me from the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob again to him, Though Israel be not gathered, yet shall I be glorious in the eyes of the LORD, and my God shall be my strength.*

⁶ *And he said, It is a light thing that thou shouldest be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved of Israel: I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth.*

The righteous angels are also called the elect.

1 Timothy 5:21

²¹ *I charge thee before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the elect angels, that thou observe these things without preferring one before another, doing nothing by partiality.*

These angels are called the "elect" because they are God's heavenly representatives.

When Paul refers to believers as the "elect" he is reminding us that we are God's earthly representatives today.

2 Corinthians 5:19-21

¹⁹ *To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.*

²⁰ *Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.*

²¹ *For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*

Getting back to Paul's point, we should desire to live in a way that glorifies the Lord and manifests Him through us to the world around us.

2. Holy

Paul also reminds us that we are "holy." This is not speaking of our practice but of our position. Positionally we are "set apart" by God that is the meaning of the word. So as believers who are set apart we should certainly live separated lives.

2 Corinthians 6:14-18

¹⁴ *Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?*

¹⁵ *And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?*

¹⁶ *And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.*

¹⁷ *Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you.*

¹⁸ And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

The third title he gives the believer is:

3. Beloved

This is a reminder that we are loved with an unconditional love. It is known as agape love. Notice Vine's definition.

"To welcome, to entertain, to be fond of, to love dearly."

Paul reminds us with this word that we are loved dearly by God. Some people that I should never tell people that they are secure in Christ and that they cannot lose their salvation. My response is, "That is what the Bible teaches and it is my responsibility to teach the Bible." They say that kind of teaching leads people to a life of sin. They say when people know they cannot lose their salvation they will dive back into the sins they were in before. I say when a person is truly saved and walking with the Lord it is the opposite response. When people learn how much God loves them and how He desires the very best for them, they will want to live a life that is pleasing to Him. They will not want to turn their back upon Him and go into a life of sin.

These three titles are given to encourage us to live clothed with the new man.

➤ **The Virtues**

➤ **Part 1**

Notice Colossians 3:12b.

The first way in which we see this lived out is "bowels of mercies." The word "bowels" here refers to the seat of emotions in a person. It would be the part of us that feels the emotions. Here the meaning is to show compassion for people. It is to consider what they are going through or might be dealing with in their lives and show compassion to them even if they are not deserving of it. This is where mercy comes in. Mercy and grace are different. Grace is getting what we do not deserve. Salvation is by grace and we can all say that we certainly do not deserve it. Mercy is not getting what we do deserve. Grace has saved us and mercy keeps us from the judgment of God. The people we deal with in life may not be deserving of our compassion but when mercy is involved, we show compassion even when they do not deserve it or even when they do not appreciate it.

Let me show you what mercy looks like in action.

Luke 23:33-38

³³ And when they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left.

³⁴ Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.

³⁵ And the people stood beholding. And the rulers also with them derided him, saying, He saved others; let him save himself, if he be Christ, the chosen of God.

³⁶ And the soldiers also mocked him, coming to him, and offering him vinegar,

³⁷ And saying, If thou be the king of the Jews, save thyself.

³⁸ And a superscription also was written over him in letters of Greek, and Latin, and Hebrew, THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

When Jesus prayed for those who crucified Him and mocked Him that was mercy. They did not deserve the prayer and they certainly did not appreciate it. But Jesus showed mercy to those³ who were so against Him.

Notice Colossians 3:12 again.

The second way we manifest the new man is by showing kindness. This is clearly seen in the life of David.

2 Samuel 9:1-10

And David said, Is there yet any that is left of the house of Saul, that I may shew him kindness for Jonathan's sake?

² And there was of the house of Saul a servant whose name was Ziba. And when they had called him unto David, the king said unto him, Art thou Ziba? And he said, Thy servant is he.

³ And the king said, Is there not yet any of the house of Saul, that I may shew the kindness of God unto him? And Ziba said unto the king, Jonathan hath yet a son, which is lame on his feet.

⁴ And the king said unto him, Where is he? And Ziba said unto the king, Behold, he is in the house of Machir, the son of Ammiel, in Lodebar.

⁵ Then king David sent, and fetched him out of the house of Machir, the son of Ammiel, from Lodebar.

⁶ Now when Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, was come unto David, he fell on his face, and did reverence. And David said, Mephibosheth. And he answered, Behold thy servant!

⁷ And David said unto him, Fear not: **for I will surely shew thee kindness for Jonathan thy father's sake**, and will restore thee all the land of Saul thy father; and thou shalt eat bread at my table continually.

⁸ And he bowed himself, and said, What is thy servant, that thou shouldest look upon such a dead dog as I am?

⁹ Then the king called to Ziba, Saul's servant, and said unto him, I have given unto thy master's son all that pertained to Saul and to all his house.

¹⁰ Thou therefore, and thy sons, and thy servants, shall till the land for him, and thou shalt bring in the fruits, that thy master's son may have food to eat: but Mephibosheth thy master's son shall eat bread alway at my table. Now Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants.

David did this because of a covenant that he and Jonathan had made in 1 Samuel 20 and David promised to show kindness to the family of Jonathan.

Conclusion:

Our Lord has showed great kindness to us all because of a Covenant that was made between the Father and the Son and the Covenant is called the New Covenant Jesus ratified the Covenant with His blood that was shed on the cross. Therefore, we have no right to not show kindness to those we meet in our lives.