

Putting on our New Clothes

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.¹³ Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.¹⁴ And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.
Colossians 3:12-14

The "Garments of Grace" are our uniform that identifies to the world who we are as Christians.

Other places in scripture that tell how to clothe ourselves.

- ✓ Ephesians 6:10-18 put on the "Armor of God."
- ✓ 1 Peter 5:5 put on "Humility" to guard against pride and arrogance.
- ✓ Romans 13:14 put on the "Lord Jesus" to keep us strong in the face of temptation to sexual sin, jealousy and quarreling.

The "Garments of Grace" in Colossians 3:12-14 is a comprehensive list that covers every area of our lives.

1. **Compassion** feels the pain that others are going through in their lives.
2. **Kindness** reaches out to those who are hurting and struggling.
3. **Humility** keeps our hearts completely dependent upon the Lord.
4. **Meekness** shows others the gentle heart of Christ.
5. **Patience** does not give up on those that the world has given up on.
6. **Ability to bear with others**, endures with them, when everything in us screams for us to walk away.
7. **Forgiveness**, forgives, even when we have been hurt, or mistreated, or persecuted.

Who do all of these virtues look like? They look like _____.

For example:

- When our hearts break for those who are hurting, we are becoming more like Jesus.

"When He saw the crowds, He had compassion on them because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd."
Matthew 9:36

- When we CHOOSE to forgive those, who don't deserve to be forgiven, we are becoming more like Jesus.

"Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."
Luke. 23:34

- When we live a life of humility and total dependence upon God, we are becoming more like Jesus.

"The Son can do nothing of His own accord, but only what He sees the Father doing." John 5:19

Over all of these virtues put on Love; the Love of Christ.

Without the LOVE OF CHRIST none of the "Garments of Grace" will operate in our lives.

Jesus Christ Love:

- Moves us to have a compassionate heart, to show kindness, to be patient and forgiving.
- Moves us to step out of our comfort zone and share Christ with someone who is not like us.
- Moves us to rearrange our schedule so we can disciple someone in their walk with Christ.
- Moves us to tithe and give when our bank account is already tight.
- Moves us to teach a bible study class, lead a small group, teach Sunday School, serve in the food pantry, help be a part of Youth Group, go on a mission trip, work at the Food Pantry.

The result, of putting on these virtues, these "Garment of Grace" covered by the love Christ, is:

- ❖ We are drawn together in unity with our brothers and sisters in Christ.
- ❖ We find ourselves loving each other more.
- ❖ We find ourselves loving Jesus more.
- ❖ We find ourselves loving our neighbors more.
- ❖ We find ourselves discovering more purpose and meaning to our life.