

New Clothes for a New People

Colossians 3:12-14

08/02/15
by Bob DeWaay

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Gospel of Grace Fellowship

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Elect, Holy and Beloved

Colossians 3:12a (NET)

Therefore, as the **elect** of God, **holy** and dearly **loved**, . . .

- “Chosen” is God’s doing and not dependent on one’s previous status (see verse 11)
- The elect are holy because God set them apart for Himself
- “Loved” is a divine passive; i.e. “by God”
- Loved and elect is grounded in the OT (Deut. 4:37; 7:7, 8)

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2

Put on the Virtues of Christ

Colossians 3:12b (NET)

. . . **clothe yourselves** with a heart of mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience,

- “Clothe yourselves” is **imperative** in the Greek
- **These five virtues are communicable attributes of God**
- See Exodus 34:6; Philippians 2:3-5
- We are called by God to be Christ-like
- See Colossians 3:10

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3



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Showing Grace to God's People

Colossians 3:13 (NET)

bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if someone happens to have a complaint against anyone else. Just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also forgive others.

- "Bearing with" could be translated "putting up with"
- "forgiving" is *charizomai* from the root *charis*, grace
- As recipients of grace we are to be gracious in the sense of forgiving others

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4

Put on Love

Colossians 3:14 (NET)

And to all these virtues add love, which is the perfect bond.

- Love binds the other virtues together
- "bond" is literally "co-chain" meaning "being chained together"
- "perfect" means "completeness" or achieving a goal
- We could say, "the bond that produces perfection"

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5

Implications and Applications

- We are a chosen people who belong to God
- Our calling is never based on who we were
- We must understand who Christ is and come to Him
- Love is the supreme Christian virtue

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6



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A People for God's Own Possession

1Peter 2:9 (NET)

But you are *a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of his own*, so that you may *proclaim the virtues* of the one who *called you out of darkness* into his marvelous light.

- This teaches the priesthood of every believer (see Rev. 1:6)
- We are called to "proclaim" God's attributes
- As we live out the virtues of Christ we make God known
- "called out" is a description of conversion

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7

God's Calling Is Not Based on Human Status

1Corinthians 1:26, 27 (NASB)

For consider your calling, brethren, that there were *not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble*; but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and *God has chosen the weak things* of the world to shame the things which are strong,

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8

Come to Christ Who Is Gentle and Humble

Matthew 11:28-30 (NASB)

"Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for *I am gentle and humble* in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

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9



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Love One Another

1Peter 1:22 (NASB)

Since you have in **obedience to the truth** purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently **love one another** from the heart,

- “**obedience to the truth**” describes conversion
- “Love” is imperative in the Greek
- God has made it possible for us to obey this command by His work of the Spirit (Romans 5:5)
- Christians are hated by the world and must cling to one another in their mutual faith

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10

