

Taking Off The Old, & Putting On The New - Part 2



Warren W. Wiersbe, *The Bible Exposition Commentary*, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996).



Colossians 3:10–14 (NKJV)

10 and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,

11 where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.

12 Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering;

FearLESS

Colossians 3:10-14



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.

14 But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.

FearLESS

Colossians 3:10-14



- Colossians 3:12–14 This section completes Paul’s exhortation to the Christian to live a holy life.
- It continues the illustration of garments: “Put off ... put on” (Col. 3:8–10).
- He exhorted his readers to put off the grave clothes of sin and the old life, and to put on the “grace clothes” of holiness and the new life in Christ.



- The emphasis in this section is on motives. Why should we put off the old deeds and put on the qualities of the new life?

FearLESS

Colossians 3:10-14



- The Grace of Christ is available to us. Colossians 3:12–14 (NKJV)
- Grace is God's favor to undeserving sinners. Paul reminded the Colossians of what God's grace had done for them.

FearLESS

Colossians 3:10-14



God chose them (v. 12a)

- The word elect means “chosen of God.” God’s words to Israel through Moses help us to understand the meaning of salvation by grace:



Deuteronomy 7:7–8 (NKJV)

7 The Lord did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples;

8 but because the Lord loves you, and because He would keep the oath which He swore to your fathers, the Lord has brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you from the house of bondage, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

FearLESS

Colossians 3:10-14



- This miracle of divine election did not depend on anything that we are or that we have done; for God chose us in Christ “before the foundation of the world” (Eph. 1:4).
- If God saved a sinner on the basis of merit or works, nobody would be saved. It is all done through God’s grace that it might all bring glory to God.



- Election is a “sacred secret” that belongs to God’s children. It is not a doctrine that we believers explain to the unsaved. “The Lord knows them that are His” (2 Tim. 2:19), so we must leave the working out of His eternal purposes with Him.
- Our task is to share the Good News of the Gospel with a lost world.



God set them apart (v. 12)

- That is the meaning of the word holy. Because we have trusted Christ, we have been set apart from the world unto the Lord. We are not our own; we belong completely to Him.

FearLESS

Colossians 3:10-14



1 Corinthians 6:19–20 (NKJV)

19 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?

20 For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

FearLESS

Colossians 3:10-14



- Just as the marriage ceremony sets apart a man and a woman for each other exclusively, so salvation sets the believer apart exclusively for Jesus Christ.

FearLESS

Colossians 3:10-14



God loves them (v. 12)

- When an unbeliever sins, he is a creature breaking the laws of the holy Creator and Judge.

- But when a Christian sins, he is a child of God breaking the loving heart of his Father.

FearLESS

Colossians 3:10-14



- Love is the strongest motivating power in the world.
- As the believer grows in his love for God, he will grow in his desire to obey Him and walk in the newness of life that he has in Christ.

FearLESS

Colossians 3:10-17



God has forgiven them (vv. 13–14).

- “Having forgiven you all trespasses” (Col. 2:13).
God’s forgiveness is complete and final; it is not conditional or partial.
- How is the holy God able to forgive us guilty sinners?



- Because of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross. God has forgiven us “for Christ’s sake” (Eph. 4:32), and not for our own sake.
- Chosen by God, set apart for God, loved by God, and forgiven by God.
- They all add up to GRACE!

FearLESS

Colossians 3:10-14



- Now, because of these gracious blessings, the Christian has some solemn responsibilities before God.
- He must put on the beautiful graces of the Christian life. Paul named eight graces.

FearLESS

Colossians 3:10-14



Put On ... Tender Mercies (Col. 3:12)

- The Greek uses the term bowels of compassion because the Greek people located the deeper emotions in the intestinal area, while we locate them in the heart.
- As believers, we need to display tender feelings of compassion toward one another.



Philippians 2:1 (NKJV)

Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy,

- This is not something that we turn on and off, like the TV set. It is a constant attitude of heart that makes us easy to live with.

FearLESS

Colossians 3:10-14



Put On ... Kindness (Col. 3:12)

- We have been saved because of God's kindness toward us through Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 2:7 (NKJV)

that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.



Titus 3:4 (NKJV)

But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared,

- We, in turn, ought to show kindness toward others.

FearLESS

Colossians 3:10-14



Ephesians 4:32 (NKJV)

And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

- This is God's command.
- One of the most beautiful pictures of kindness in the Bible is King David's treatment of the crippled prince, Mephibosheth (see 2 Samuel 9).



- David's desire was to show "the kindness of God" to King Saul's family because of his own love for Saul's son, Jonathan.
- The young man chosen was Mephibosheth, Jonathan's son, a poor lame man.
- If David had acted according to justice, he would have condemned Mephibosheth, for the man belonged to a condemned family. But David acted on the basis of love and grace.



- David sought Mephibosheth and assured him not to be afraid. He invited Mephibosheth to live in the palace as a member of his family, and to eat at the king's bountiful table.
- This is the kindness of God! You and I have experienced an even greater kindness, for as Christians, we are God's children and shall live with Him in heaven forever!

FearLESS

Colossians 3:10-14



Put On ... Humbleness Of Mind (Col. 3:12)

- The pagan world of Paul's day did not admire humility. Instead, they admired pride and domination.
- Jesus Christ is the greatest example of humbleness of mind. Humility is not thinking poorly of oneself.



- Rather, it is having the proper estimate of oneself in the will of God.

Romans 12:3 (NKJV)

For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.

- The person with humbleness of mind thinks of others first and not of himself.

FearLESS

Colossians 3:10-14



Put On ... Meekness (Col. 3:12)

- Meekness is not weakness; it is power under control.
- This word was used to describe a soothing wind, a healing medicine, and a colt that had been broken.

FearLESS

Colossians 3:10-14



- In each instance, there is *power*: a wind can become a storm; too much medicine can kill; a horse can break loose.
- This power is under control.
- The meek person does not have to fly off the handle because he has everything under control.



Put On ... Long-Suffering (Col. 3:12)

- This word is literally “long-temper.” The short-tempered person speaks and acts impulsively and lacks self-control.
- When a person is long-suffering, he can put up with aggravating people or circumstances without striking back.



- It is good to be able to get angry, for this is a sign of holy character.
- But it is wrong to get angry quickly at the wrong things and for the wrong reasons.

FearLESS

Colossians 3:10-14



Put On ... Forbearance (Col. 3:13)

- This word literally means “to hold up” or “to hold back.”
- God is forbearing toward sinners in that He holds back His judgment (Rom. 2:4; 3:25). Meekness, long-suffering, and forbearance go together.

FearLESS

Colossians 3:10-14



Romans 12:3 (NKJV)

For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.

FearLESS

Colossians 3:10-14



Romans 3:25 (NKJV)

whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed,

FearLESS

Colossians 3:10-14



Put On ... Forgiveness (Col. 3:13)

- This is the logical result of all that Paul has written so far in this section.
- It is not enough that the Christian must endure grief and vexation, and refuse to retaliate; he must also forgive the troublemaker.



- If he does not, then feelings of malice will develop in the heart; and these can lead to greater sins.
- It is Christ like to forgive, and forgiveness opens the heart to the fullness of the love of God.

Ephesians 4:32 (NKJV)

And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.



- The very instant we have a complaint against another person, we should forgive him in our hearts.

FearLESS

Colossians 3:10-14



Put On ... Love (Col. 3:14)

- This is the most important of the Christian virtues, and it acts like a “girdle” that ties all the other virtues together.
- All of the spiritual qualities Paul has named are aspects of true Christian love, as a reading of 1 Corinthians 13 will reveal.



- Love is the first of the fruit of the Spirit and the other virtues follow—joy (Col. 3:16), peace (Col. 3:15), long-suffering, gentleness, kindness, and meekness (Col. 3:12).
- When love rules in our lives, it unites all these spiritual virtues so that there is beauty and harmony, indicating spiritual maturity.
- This harmony and maturity keep the life balanced and growing.

