



### Lesson #3: Your Local Church (Colossians 3:12-17)

What was in style for the church in the 1<sup>st</sup> century is still in style in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. In fact, this is in style anyplace and at any time. In Colossians 3:12-17 Paul gives four essential pieces of Christian \_\_\_\_\_, for godly garments for the child of God. They are **love, peace, thanksgiving**, and the **Word of Christ**. We know that these garments are for the local church because of the \_\_\_\_\_. Paul uses (“*elect of God*,” “*one another*,” “*one body*”). Paul is demonstrating that especially in our interactions with others in the church we should strive to highlight and live out our lives as being wrapped up in Jesus. Paul uses four \_\_\_\_\_ in this passage to emphasize, again, our need to actively cooperate with God’s grace and Jesus’ recreation. “*Put on*” (v. 12), “*let rule*” (v. 15), “*let dwell*” (v. 16), “*do*” (v. 17).

The implication is that these garments are something that all Christians \_\_\_\_\_ put on! We could rightly say that every member of Crosspointe Baptist Church has a personalized \_\_\_\_\_ to wrap this church up in Jesus by wearing the proper attire.

#### PUT ON \_\_\_\_\_ (3:12-14)

Jesus’ prayer and desire for unity within His body cannot be accomplished outside of love. Paul says that love is the glue that accomplishes unity (v. 14). So what is love bonding together? Eight virtues are listed that we are to “put on.” We could categorize them this way ...

- A. Put on love in how you \_\_\_\_\_**  
The first two items we are instructed to put on with love describe our relationship with other people and specifically how we treat them.
- “*Mercies*” – \_\_\_\_\_
  - “*Kindness*” – \_\_\_\_\_
- B. Put on love in what you \_\_\_\_\_**  
The next two in the list of things we are to put on have to do with our state of mind regarding our possessions.
- “*Humility*” – \_\_\_\_\_
  - “*Meekness*” – \_\_\_\_\_
- Without these characteristics Christ and His sufficiency will not be magnified as He ought.

- C. Put on love when you are \_\_\_\_\_**  
The last group of characteristics we put on with love deal with what to do when others are mistreating us.
- “*Longsuffering*” – \_\_\_\_\_
  - “*Bearing with one another*” – \_\_\_\_\_
  - “*Forgiving one another*” – \_\_\_\_\_

#### PUT ON \_\_\_\_\_ (3:15)

- A. Be \_\_\_\_\_ by peace**  
Paul is saying that we should let peace be the \_\_\_\_\_ in our lives. Let the peace of Christ be the final word in your heart. Let it decide what is right and let it make the call time and time again.
- B. Accept the \_\_\_\_\_ of peace**  
How inconsistent is it for those of us who have experience the peace of God to \_\_\_\_\_ among ourselves. What a shame that is to the church. What a tragic witness to the world.

#### PUT ON \_\_\_\_\_ (3:15, 17)

- A. Be thankful \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 15)**  
There are no limitations or qualifications for this bold imperative. Paul says we are simply to respond to \_\_\_\_\_ things with thanksgiving. Notice that this thanksgiving is a \_\_\_\_\_ act and not an \_\_\_\_\_ decision.
- B. Be thankful \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 17)**  
We give thanks to the Father through Christ. Why? Because we are doing “\_\_\_\_\_ in the name of the \_\_\_\_\_.” This is one of the most difficult pieces of clothing to put on but it is also one of the most important!

#### PUT ON \_\_\_\_\_ (3:16-17)

- A. We must put on Christ’s Word \_\_\_\_\_**  
“To dwell” means “to live in or be at \_\_\_\_\_ in.” God’s Word should take up residence and be at home in our lives. “Richly” demonstrates the extent to which God’s Word should live within us – it should abundantly or \_\_\_\_\_ possess our lives.
- B. We must put on Christ’s Word \_\_\_\_\_**  
When Scripture truly possess our hearts and minds as its dwelling place, it will seek to impact its \_\_\_\_\_ as well.
1. Through \_\_\_\_\_ - “*Teaching and admonishing*”
  2. Through \_\_\_\_\_ - “*In psalms and hymns.*”

#### Concluding Thoughts

C.S. Lewis says that we are ordered to “\_\_\_\_\_ as Christ” and though that may seem like a pretense it is in fact what we are ordered to do. So here is your heavenly wardrobe. Each of these garments was perfectly worn by Christ. Have you been wrapped up in Jesus today?