



Grace Life Church
of Dallas

The doctrines of grace, the life of the Spirit, to the glory of God

Colossians 3:12

**Put on then, as God's chosen ones,
holy and beloved**

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Colossians 3:12-14

12 Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, 13 bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. 14 And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

Colossians 3:15-17

15 And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. 17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

The Positive Aspect-”Put on then”

Put on then compassion, kindness, humility, meekness (gentleness) and patience

- The way I read this verse is how many people approach the Christian life
- Paul is commanding us to “put on”
- How many of us already know that we are to be compassionate, kind, humble, gentle/meek & patient?
 - How many of you still struggle daily to be these things?

Paul didn't just give us the command “Put on...”, he gave us hope/motivation with our command:

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy & beloved

Before Paul even tells the church what to put on, he reminds them of who they are in Christ

God's chosen ones: Paul is reminding the church they are “God's chosen ones”

Before we answer what this means, I want us to remember what Paul is trying to accomplish by mentioning this (Context)

- Paul is trying to motivate, encourage and give hope to fulfilling the command “to put on compassion, kindness, humility, meekness & patience.”
- When Paul says “God's chosen ones” he is dealing with the doctrine of election
 - Biblical Election: An act of God, before creation, in which He chooses some people to be saved.
 - There is debate regarding election in the Bible (Not whether God elects/chooses unto salvation, but rather the basis of His choosing)
 - Did God elect us because of something we did or would do, or did He elect us despite us?
 - Your understanding of being “God's chosen one” should have a direct impact on your ability to put these things on

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy & beloved

Ephesians 1:3-6 *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, 4 just as He chose us in Him (An act of God where He chooses) before the foundation of the world (When the choosing took place), that we should be holy and blameless before Him. (What He chose us unto) In love 5 He predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ (The reason why He acted) , according to the purpose of His will, (The basis of His choosing) 6 to the praise of his glorious grace, (The end-Ultimately why He does all He does) with which He blessed us in the Beloved*

2 Thessalonians 2:13-15 *But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because **God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved**, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth. 14 To this he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. 15 So then, brothers, stand firm and hold to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by our spoken word or by our letter.*

If election is God choosing you because He saw that you would choose Him, how does that motivate you in your obedience and Christian living? But if election is that God chose you according to His own will, motivated by His love, even though you were a wretch and would never deserve it, that is very humbling and motivating to live a life worthy of the cross.

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy & beloved

Paul reminds them that they are “God’s chosen ones, and holy”

- In God’s sovereign plan of election, he elected us unto himself (set apart unto God)
- Knowing this is very encouraging because we see that God has a sovereign plan and purpose in our salvation, and he chose us unto holiness (himself)
- **Romans 8:29-30** *For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. 30 And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.*
 - Conformity to Christ is the plan of God and being justified in Christ through faith is the plan of God
 - Knowing this, when we struggle to “put on” these virtues, we can find hope, strength and encouragement in understanding that in Christ we are holy and chosen by God unto holiness

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy & beloved

Not only are we “*God's chosen one, holy*” but also “*beloved*”

- We already saw that the motivation for God choosing us was His love
- God's love towards us is not based on us or our performance
- Almost everything on earth called love is based upon the one being loved
- We cannot allow the world's skewed view of love to shape our view of God's love towards us
- Paul is motivating us to be compassionate, kind, humble, meek, patient and loving by reminding us that we are loved by God
 - And His love towards us is not driven by us but Him (God is love)

Isn't it humbling to know God chose you, set you apart and loved you despite you (who you are, were or would be).

- Hearing that we are God's chosen ones, holy and beloved screams “GRACE”

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy & beloved

All these virtues that Paul is calling us to “put on” (clothes ourselves) with are overlapping, and flow from a humble heart

Notice also how these virtues are all “others” focused & how pride would stand in the way of them (Hard to be proud when you are unconditionally elected, set apart and loved by God-not because of who you are but because of who God is)

- **Compassion:** heart of mercy, pity (to look on one's situation & feel pity)
- **Kindness:** goodness/gentleness (not harsh)
 - People who lack kindness typically have a low view of God's kindness towards them. They typically view God's kindness towards them based on their works (Not God's kindness/gentleness)
- **Humility:** lowliness (A right view of one's self)
 - Do you see why a right understanding of unconditional election produces humility in your heart (and then is reflected towards others)
- **Meekness/Gentleness:** mildness (comes from humility)
 - Seen when we are willing to suffer instead of another suffering
- **Patience:** Endurance, Long suffering
 - A willingness to put up with the weakness of others

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy & beloved

When we struggle to “put on” these virtues which match our newness in Christ, we need to remind ourselves that we are God's chosen one, set apart and loved not because of who we are or what we did, but because of who God is and what He did

This will in turn make us humble and in humility we count others more significant than ourselves

In all of these, Christ is our model

Romans 13:14 *put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.*