



Grace Life Church
of Dallas

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

Colossians 3:14

Above All These Put on Love

All Bible Verses are in the ESV Version (unless noted)

© 2001–2015 Crossway.

All rights reserved.

All emphasis added/insertions are mine

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.

Chapter 3-Putting on the new self

Commands/Imperatives

- *V1 Seek the things that are above*
- *V2 (By) Setting your mind on things that are above*
- *V4 Put to death therefore what is earthly in you*
- *V12 Put on then (Compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, patience, bearing with one another, forgiving each other)*

Motivation/Indicatives

- *V3 You have died and your life is hidden with Christ*
- *V4 When Christ (your life appears) you will appear with him in glory*
- *V6 On account of these things the wrath of God is coming*
- *V9 You have put off the old self*
- *V11 Here there is not Greek & Jew, circumcised & uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free, but Christ is all and in all*
- *V12 (You are) God's chosen ones, holy and beloved*
- *V13 (Forgive) As the Lord has forgiven you*

Paul keeps pointing us to the supremacy and sufficiency in Jesus Christ (Who He is, What He accomplished, Who we are in Him)

V14 Command: *Put on love*

Love (agape)-Affection, good will, benevolence

- **John 13:35** *By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”*
- Note the emphasis of the command:
 - *Above (Beyond) all these put on love*
 - *Put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony*

1 Corinthians 13 Love Defined (Note Correlation)

Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant 5or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; 6it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. 7Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

V14 Command: *Put on love*

All of our Christian duties are summed up in love

Matthew 22:36-40 *Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?"*

37And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. 38This is the great and first commandment. 39And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. 40On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."

Any aspect of our Christianity that falls short of love amounts to nothing:

1 Corinthians 13:1-3 *If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. 2And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. 3If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.*

- If you have spiritual gifts, understanding/knowledge, faith to move mountains, give away everything, and die as a martyr without love, you have nothing. (5-1=0)

Put on love

Where does love come from?

1 John 4:7-9 *Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because **God is love**. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him.*

- Love is NOT separate from God compelling him, but rather God is love and he demonstrates his love in Christ
- There is no love apart from God and our ability to love comes from knowing and experiencing God's love

Why do we still struggle to love?

Luke 7:47 *Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven—for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little.”*

2 Corinthians 5:14-15 *For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; 15and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.*