

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, 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. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. 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. 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.

Colossians 3:12-17 NKJ

Put On!

Just as Paul told the Colossian disciples to put off certain attitudes and actions, he also told them what to put on. We are to do the same, putting these attitudes and actions to work in our lives to be renewed after the image of the Creator.

Compassionate is also defined as pity or mercy (Thayer, Greek-English Lexicon, 442). And, it comes from the heart which is the seat of understanding, will and emotions. This is something we 'put on', so it is part of our free will. Romans 12:1; Hebrews 10:28

Kindness is also moral goodness and integrity (Thayer, 672). Romans 11:22; Ephesians 2:7; Galatians 5:22

Humility is "having a humble opinion of one's self...modesty, lowliness of mind" (Thayer, 614). Acts 20:19; Ephesians 4:2

Meekness is gentleness and mildness (Thayer, 535). 2 Corinthians 10:1; Ephesians 4:2; 2 Timothy 2:25

Patience is "endurance, constancy, steadfastness, perseverance" (Thayer, 387). Galatians 5:22; Ephesians 4:2; Hebrews 6:12; James 5:10

Bearing with one another. Bearing means to 'bear with, endure' (Thayer, 44-45). Matthew 17:17; 1 Corinthians 4:12; 2 Timothy 4:3

Forgiving each other is to pardon (Thayer, 665). It is also translated 'given, freely'. In this text it is forgiving as we have been forgiven. We are to forgive and not hold the other accountable in that offense again. Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 3:13. Compare the action described in Hebrews 8:12.

Love here is the word so well known as the highest degree of love. It is the love demonstrated by God when He gave His Son for us (Romans 5:8; John 3:16). See also 1 Corinthians 13; 1 John 3:16-18; 4:18-21

Thankful is to be "mindful of favors, grateful" (Thayer, 264). The third chapter of Colossians includes many blessings for which we should be thankful. Christians have the uniqueness of being in the body of Christ, the church. This is the body of the saved ones

according to Paul (Ephesians 5:23) and the penitent believer who confesses that Jesus is the Christ is added to the body when that person is baptized (1 Corinthians 12:13). Paul noted this change in one's relationship with God in Colossians 2:11-13. When we are 'in Christ' we have every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places. We do have reason to be thankful!