

SERMON DISCUSSION

FORGIVE AS FORGIVEN

COLOSSIANS 3:12-14

The Study

Last time, in speaking of the change The Gospel brings, Paul told us what to “take off.” This week he tells us what to put on.

V. 12 • After “taking off” the immorality, greed, anger, and deceit of the previous verses, Paul tells us to “put on” the virtues of ...

Tender mercies = A FELT compassion

Kindness = being careful & cautious, especially in speech

Humility = Abiding within the realm of who we are in Christ

Meekness = Power under control

Longsuffering = Enduring under hardship over the long haul

V. 13 • Those virtues are then applied in putting up with difficult people, forgiving them when they hurt/offend/sin against us. Paul adds to the complexity of the call to forgive by patterning it after how Jesus forgives us. We forgive on His terms, not ours.

V. 14 • V12 can be understood as the “spiritual undergarments” we’re to put on; the *base* layer. V13 are the “pants & shirt.” V14 is the “jacket, coat” that covers it all and keeps us warm in a cold world. Love is the bond of perfection that links all other virtues.

The Discussion

Do you prefer comfort, style, or strive for a happy medium in choosing what to wear? Do you have a favorite piece of clothing that really ought to be retired? What is it, and why is it difficult to get rid of?

When we encounter a word list like this, it may be wise to do a kind of *personal inventory*, seeing how we are doing in each element. If each of these five things was a sliding scale, where would you line up?

Compassion

|-----|-----|
0% 50% 100%

Kindness

|-----|-----|
0% 50% 100%

Humility

|-----|-----|
0% 50% 100%

Meekness

|-----|-----|
0% 50% 100%

Longsuffering

|-----|-----|
0% 50% 100%

Are you tolerant and easy-going, or do you find difficult people a pain to deal with?

What difference does the Gospel make in how we deal with difficult people?

The great challenge of v. 13 is the call to forgive as we’ve been forgiven. What’s your personal response to what Paul says here?

Pastor Lance explained the difference between forgiveness and reconciliation. Unpack that with your group so that everyone understands what forgiveness IS and ISN’T.

Why & How is love the one virtue that ensures all the others are in place and properly expressed?