

New Life, New Love

Colossians 3:12-14

READY

What is your favorite article of clothing to wear? Why do you enjoy wearing it?

SET & GO

Primary Text: Colossians 3:12-14 **Supporting Texts:** Romans 13:8-14

Set 1 *Read Colossians 3:12-14 aloud. Answer the following questions:*

What is the imagery being used by Paul when he writes of “putting on love?” (v 14)

What are “these things” referenced in v 14?

How is love described in v 14?

Set 2 ***Briefly discuss:** Beginning at v 8 Paul uses the imagery of taking off and putting on clothing. This imagery is helpful in thinking about the change process. We labor to remove the filthy rags of selfishness and replace them with the beautiful garments of Christ-likeness. But if we’re not careful to firmly ground this principle in the gospel, the “put off/put on” principle can become nothing more than a legalistic way of modifying our behavior. We must remember that our ability to put off and put on is directly tied to the new life we have in Christ (cf. v 3 and 10).*

Go 2a Discuss the analogy of taking off filthy garments and putting on new. Why is this a helpful word picture?

Go 2b Discuss how this principle of putting off and putting on could become legalistic. Why is this our tendency?

Go 2b How can you obey the commands of Paul to put off and put on while avoiding this legalism?

Set 3 ***Briefly discuss:** In v 14 Paul describes love as the outer garment put over all of the other virtues mentioned in v 12-13. Love is what binds these things together. Romans 13:11-14 is very similar to this whole section of Colossians. In that passage, Paul simply says, “put on the Lord Jesus Christ.” All of the virtues Paul lists are character qualities of Christ.*

Go 3a Why can Paul sum up Colossians 3:12-14 with the phrase “put on the Lord Jesus Christ” in Romans 13:14?

Go 3b Compare Romans 13:8-10. Why is love described as the crowning virtue in Colossians 3:14?

Go 3c How does love shape your interactions with other believers? What are you doing to grow in your love for others?

Set 4 ***Briefly discuss:** The language of these verses clearly indicates that Paul has in mind that believers will have enough interaction with one another so as to be exposed to each other’s weaknesses. The life of Christ in us is most displayed when we respond to the strains of those relationships with love.*

Go 4a Are you connected enough with others at Cornerstone to be exposed to other’s faults? If no, why not?

Go 4b How do you typically handle the strains of relationships? What behaviors need to be put off? What behaviors do you need to put on?

Go 4b What are some ways that you can seek the Lord’s help in developing a Christ-like love for others?

FINISH

Read and meditate upon 1 Timothy 1:15. Do you see yourself as a sinner in need of Christ? Do you see yourself as the greatest of all the sinners you know?