

Consecrate Yourselves Unto God 4 (Put on Godliness)

Colossians 3:12-17 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. 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.

❖ Introduction:

- **Everything considered here hinges on:**
 - Whether or not the person has been born again
 - He is speaking to people He believes have trusted in Jesus
 - He says... if you have been raised with Christ... in ch. 3:1
 - In ch. 1 He says... **if** you continue in the faith...
- **We are calling our church to Holiness**
 - Calling each person to set themselves apart unto God

❖ Overview: I want to give you 7 Outfits for Setting Yourselves apart

- **These are things to PUT ON**
- **These are unlike the things we are told to stay away from**
 - We were given some things to put to death, to put away, to kill
- **Now we are going to look at some things we must PUT ON**
 - Things we must do
- 1) Holiness is Your Destiny 2) Put on Godliness 3) Put on Love 4) Let God's Peace Rule in Your Hearts 5) Be Thankful 6) Let Christ's Word Dwell in You Richly 7) Do Everything for Jesus

❖ Recap

- **Follow Paul's Reasoning in Colossians 3**
 - Before Colossians 3 he spends a couple chapters giving truth
 - This is true about Jesus, That is true about Jesus
- **In Ch 3 Paul Gets down to the practice of Godly living...**
 - He says **Seek** the things above, **Set** your mind on things above
 - **Kill** what is earthly in you, put it off
 - He lists them... Immoralities and ungodly angers
 - He says if you have been **raised** with Christ,
 - and you have **died** in Christ and been **hidden** in him
- **But all the way back in ch. 1 He also gives us a most important truth...**
 - Which leads me to the first garment for you today...
 - In the First Chapter Paul informs us about Jesus plans for us... (lets go back first)

➤ 1) Holiness is Your Destiny

- **Colossians 1:22** yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach—
- **Jesus did not just come to save...**
 - He also plans to change... to transform... to have you conformed into His image
 - **So, notice He reconciled you through his death**

- ◆ **Meaning:** He brought you back into a right relationship with God
- ◆ And He did this through his death for you...
- **Then: Notice: He did this in order to present you:**
 - How? The same? ... **NO!** to present you Holy and blameless and beyond reproach...
 - How does He do this...?
 - **I believe we see two things in scripture:**
 - ◆ **1) First is through His death and substitution for you...**
 - Because Jesus is Holy, and you have trusted in Jesus... you too will be Holy...
 - ◆ **2) Second is the progression of Sanctification**
 - Once the Holy Spirit comes into your heart and you believe and are saved
 - Jesus begins to work in you to be like Him...
 - **He changes you...**
 - *So... His changing you is toward that goal of presenting you Holy and Blameless and beyond reproach...*
 - **If you just leave it at the first thought... That Jesus Died for me, so I am good**
 - ◆ It seems that you mock the plan of sanctification...
 - **And this is done: Not so much as a thought you live by...**
 - Rather it is shown in how you live...
 - You may say... I do not believe this... BUT... your life says otherwise
 - ◆ You **mock** progression of Holiness in the life of the believer...
 - And therefore you mock God...
 - **Galatians 6:7-9 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary.**
 - **The Bible does not seem to give us the right to say...**
 - ◆ I **believed**, so I do not have to set myself apart anymore... it is already done...
 - ◆ That verse in Galatians is a great proof
 - ◆ And here is another great proof for that...
 - ◆ After informing us: **Christ plans to present us as Holy and blameless and without fault**
 - **He says 1:23 if indeed you continue in the faith firmly established and steadfast, and not moved away from the hope of the gospel that you have heard,**
 - **You notice: If indeed...**
 - ◆ There is an **"IF"** there... that is a conditional...
 - **It's like telling our kids... You get ice-cream after supper... if you finish your supper...**
 - **Their getting their ice cream is conditional on finishing their supper**
 - Here the **"IF"** is **"IF" you continue in the faith, Not moved away from the hope of the gospel**
 - **Granted: This is not wholly dependent on you**
 - ◆ God is at work in those who believe...
 - He promises to sanctify them
 - ◆ **My Children** analogy breaks down because it depends solely on the kid finishing supper
 - I only use it to explain what a condition is...
 - ◆ **But, The Main Way in which God sanctifies the believer is:**
 - Through the Instructions of His Word
 - **John 17:17 "Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.**
 - **So: We See**
 - We must continue in the faith... not moved away from the hope of the gospel
 - Notice: Our continuance is to be firmly established and steadfast
 - ◆ **Your Perserverance Must Be a Priority**

- ◆ Walking in the ways of God is something you must be about..
- ◆ If you find yourself unconcerned with Setting Yourself Apart unto God
- ◆ You should not consider yourself “**firmly established and steadfast in the faith**”
 - Repeat... Do you hear this?

➤ **I say all of this so you see how important it is to put these things on**

❖ **Let me Give you a Reminder before we look at Garment 2:**

➤ **Look forward to verse 16:**

▪ **“Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly”**

➤ **Our first point was *Holiness is Your Destiny*...**

▪ **If we are to get there...**

• We must start with the Word of Christ...

▪ **Remember verse 1 and 2: seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things that are above,**

• **Seek and Set your minds on Christ**

➤ **These next things we list will become natural responses of the person who Treasures Jesus**

▪ You can not put these things that Paul lists on, if you are not Treasuring Jesus

▪ By letting His Word dwell in you richly... loving Him and His Word

▪ Living in the Word so much as to be continually seeking to know God more

▪ Asking Him to give you understanding and to increase your belief

▪ To help you overcome unbelief

▪ To help you walk in His ways and love His people

➤ **Seek Jesus First... so you are able to put these things on...**

▪ After considering the depth of these garments to be put on...

▪ I do not know that I have ever felt so WEAK as a Christian... in need of Mercy

❖ **2) Put On Godliness**

▪ **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.**

➤ **As God’s Chosen ones...**

▪ We discussed this last week... Paul is simply reminding you of who you are.

▪ You have been chosen by God... and because you are so special...

▪ You are Holy and Beloved... Set apart and loved by God

▪ Because you are set apart for His use... Therefore

➤ **Put on...**

▪ I have given the understanding of this word previously as putting on a garment...

▪ **Another, maybe more full understanding would be “enveloped”**

• It is the idea of being wrapped up in something

• Just putting something on, only explains part of the process...

• You put it on, but you are also enveloped by it...

▪ **Illustration**

• Like when we think of young love... A person has fallen in love...

• And they are so wrapped up in their thoughts and actions toward their lover

◆ That very few other things are important.

◆ It is like when I first started dating my wife. There were times when we stood together

◆ That I literally could barely catch my breath

◆ I could not stop thinking about her, and about spending the rest of my life with her...

◆ And I knew within two weeks I would marry her...

◆ Although I waited a whole two months from our first date to ask her to marry me...

- My life was wrapped up in her

- **Paul is encouraging his hearers to put on and be wrapped up in Godliness...**
 - And here he gives us 7 characteristics of God's Chosen, Holy and Beloved Ones

➤ 1) **Compassionate Hearts**

- **This means that from deep within who we are we have compassion or mercy on others.**
 - Hearts here refers to the bowels. The inner parts of the person
 - Compassion means mercy.
 - That is kind of the definition... but to understand this I believe we must see examples
- **Where do we look to see what it means to have compassionate hearts?**
 - Look to Jesus... Jesus looked at a rebellious and lost mankind
 - ◆ And He had compassion. Instead of destroying sinful man.
 - ◆ He allowed himself to be crucified for men... the innocent to die for the guilty
 - ◆ When He came He wept over people, He healed them and taught them
 - Because He cared for them
 - **Now: He sends His children into the most dangerous of situations.**
 - ◆ Christians have been killed for hundreds of years to take the gospel to savage people.
 - ◆ Sometimes God's compassion reached even those who eat other people.
 - And God sends in His children to tell them about Jesus.
 - Sometimes they are murdered and eaten... yet God continues to send
- **Other examples:**
 - Compassion for Native Americans is what pushed David Brainerd to spend his few precious years reaching them before dying at 29
 - Compassion for unreached people groups causes missionaries to take the gospel at risk of their own lives.
 - Countless men and women are being killed for Christ around the world because they have compassion to see the lost come to know Jesus
- **A Compassionate Heart....** Cares deeply about the sufferings or ignorance of other people...
 - There is a gut wrenching feeling of concern because someone else is in pain...
- **Paul says that we must put on Compassionate Hearts...**
 - And Compassionate Hearts come from being so saturated with God's Word that His compassion pours out of us

➤ 2) **Kindness**

- **Kindness is a fruit** of the Spirit mentioned in Galatians 5.
 - Kindness should mark the Christians
- **Kindness is being** considerate and good toward others.
 - Kindness is caring as much about others life and stuff as you care about your own
- **This characteristic** describes much of who the good **Samaritan** was.
 - He saw a person in a ditch and in need of help.
 - He was kind to the man in the ditch and paid for him to get better.
- We are called to be kind... Are you a kind person? Do others consider you kind?

➤ 3) **Humility**

- There is much more to humility that meets the eye.
 - Humility is not the person who never speaks up or hides in the corner
- **Humility is:** bringing yourself lower than others
 - Jesus did this when He humbled Himself from being God in all splendor and glory
 - To become a man and serve by dying
- **We are told in scripture:** Not to think too highly of ourselves...
 - We are told in scripture to place others above ourselves
- **There is a such thing as false humility**

- It seeks to gain recommendation from others by not taking credit for something
 - ◆ But all the while, making sure others know it was you
- **A person with humility puts others cares and wants above those of their own.**
 - You may wonder how I know a few things about humility
 - It is because I have struggled so much with being humble...
- **Our flesh desires to be prideful**
 - We want others to think highly of us
 - We want others to applaud us... to think we are smart, well dressed, pretty or handsome
 - We want others to think we are athletic... We may want others to think us humble...
 - So we are pridefully humble... We can not be self seeking!
- **Humility is not being bad at things, or not excelling**
 - There would be no reason for humility then
 - Rather, humility can be seen even when a person excels... in how he attributes his success
- **Ancient Roman** culture did not even have a word for humility
 - And today in America, we are losing our sense of humility daily...
- **Are you a person of Humility...?** You will only grow in this when you are looking to Christ...
 - And you are them filled with the knowledge of who you really are comparatively!
- **4) Meekness**
 - Jesus said that it will be the meek that inherit the earth
 - The meek are not weak... do not think that...
 - A horse can be full of power and force but be as gentle as a baby
 - This is the idea behind meekness... being gentle
 - The man who is meek, is gentle toward other sinners...
 - He is not proudly flaunting his new found righteous nature...
 - As if he were a peacock and was good on his own accord...
 - The meek man, considers himself a sinner among sinners...
 - ◆ So, He realizes he has no right to think too much of himself
 - He is therefore gentle toward others...
 - Do others consider you meek?
- **5) Patience**
 - **Uh OH!!!!!!** I feel pretty sure we struggle with the aforementioned qualities...
 - I am absolutely certain we struggle with being patient..
 - **Paul says...** put on Patience...
 - This is not as easy as just not having an outburst of anger...
 - He told us to kill that... that wrath that kindles up inside of us...
 - **Here we must put on patience...**
 - It is a fruit of the Spirit...
 - So we must be walking in the Spirit if we want to be wearing patience.
 - **I must confess:** And this is not funny... although we laugh sometimes...
 - Even yesterday I was very impatient with my children...
 - Very impatient that they would be acting like children... and that they would want my attention...
 - **NOW: This does not excuse their behavior of not listening...**
 - ◆ But they should have been met with a more patient Father...
 - ◆ A father in whom they can see the qualities of Christ pouring out...
 - ◆ And not a father who is impatient because he is too busy for them...
 - **Patience:**
 - God has patiently bore with us through every sin
 - ◆ Every time we would not trust... we would not listen...

◆ He has been patient

- **The KJV** used the word: long suffering to translate the greek word for patience...
- **Here we get the understanding that the Word is connected to suffering...**
 - We lack patience for things that have nothing to do with suffering...
 - Patience means that no matter how much you have been wronged or harmed...
 - You bear the pain with long suffering...
- **In 1 Timothy showed us the patience of Jesus in His own life...**
 - He said God proved His patience by allowing me to do my thing...
 - And arrest and kill Christians... yet He was patient with me...
 - And loved me and brought me to Him...
- **Should you repent of your lack of patience?**

➤ **6) Bearing with one another**

- **Just in the past couple weeks I have had to practice bearing with another person...**
 - I only use this as an example, not to life me up as a perfect example...
 - I was trying to share with a friend that God is sovereign and has the right to judge
 - But He hated that idea... and Got so loud with me in front of others... and rude...
 - I had to bear with him
- **The meaning here is to endure...**
 - In my case it was a non Christian, but I think Paul is talking specifically within the church...
 - We must bear with one another, even when another person is hard to deal with
 - Endure their complaints and actions...
- **We are called by God to do this...**
 - Our bearing with the person is not that we just do not say anything back to them...
 - It is also not running our mouth about how unpleasant another person is.
- **Put up with others**
 - There is another component to this that I find very important...
 - We must learn that not everyone is as awesome as you are... right...
 - not everyone sees the world perfectly like you do
 - Sometimes a person is an introvert... it does not mean they do not like you
 - Sometimes a person is an extrovert... it doesn't mean they are trying to get attention
 - Sometimes a person is very matter of fact... it doesn't mean they are mad at you and telling you off...
- **Bear with one another...** especially when it comes to differences...
 - But even when a person is rude... bear with them...

➤ **7) Finally, Forgive: if one has a complaint against another, Forgiving one another**

- This is so important to be considered right after bearing with one another...
 - Because people are going to hurt other people...
 - People will have complaints...
 - And you know what? Many of them will be complaints that are founded
 - ◆ Someone really did do a sinful thing...
 - ◆ Sometimes there needs to be a complaint brought up...
 - ◆ Paul does not say just let a person continue in sin and not say anything...
- **Sometimes other Christians do or say sinful things...**
 - God knows that will happen... He knew it would happen when He gave you His Spirit
 - He knew He is perfecting you and that you are not yet perfect...
 - So, you are going to mess up... you are going to disagree and do dumb things...
 - **And there is a fail safe for when that happens....**
 - ◆ It is called forgiveness
- **A Fail Safe Button:**

- These are buttons used on equipment... so that if the equipment fails to work properly
- You can press a button and it will shut down the equipment so no harm is done...
- Sometimes Christians do not behave properly... And we need a way to minimize the harm
- It is forgiveness...
 - ◆ 1 Peter 4:8 Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins.

■ **What does it mean to forgive?**

- To cancel a debt...
- Forgiving means that someone has wronged you... and you hold on to that wrong no more
- When a person owes money to a bank... if the bank cancels the debt...
- the person no longer owes anything
- This is how we are to forgive... And Paul explains it more clearly for us when he says...

■ **How? As the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive...**

- Jesus cancelled the debt He held against us...
- What joy there is in cancelled debt... What relief
- We had sinned greatly against God... So Jesus dies on our behalf... and cancels our sin debt

■ **We must forgive just like this.**

- Scriptures make it very clear that we must forgive...
- **This is illustrated by the story Jesus told in Matt 18**
 - ◆ There was a man who owed a debt worth 20,000 years annual wages
 - ◆ He begged the king to be merciful.
 - ◆ So the King forgave his entire debt
 - ◆ The man's response is sickening...
 - His fellow servant owed him the amount of 100 days of wages
- **Matt 18:28 But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, 'Pay what you owe.'** ²⁹ So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰ He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt.
 - ◆ The rest of the story is interesting because the king threw him in prison
 - ◆ After letting the man go...
 - ◆ Jesus telling of this story shows us the importance of forgiving those who have wronged us

■ **Also... there is a warning we must heed: It is VERY CLEAR**

- **Matt 6:14-15 "For if you forgive others for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. "But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.**
 - ◆ If you do not forgive, you will not be forgiven... And Jesus gives NO way out here
- One must wonder if he ever received the Holy Spirit... If he can not forgive

■ **Here is an interesting quote that summarizes this nicely:**

- *"It [our forgiving others] is not a cause of God's forgiving us, but a sign. We need not climb up into heaven to see whether our sins are forgiven: let us look into our hearts, and see if we can forgive others. If we can, we need not doubt but God has forgiven us. Our loving others is the reflection of God's love to us." – Thomas Watson*

■ **Jesus Teaches Peter this when Peter asked about forgiveness...**

- **Matt 18:21-22 Then Peter came and said to Him, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?" Jesus *said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.**
- Notice anything?
 - ◆ This is right before Jesus told the story about the servant who would not forgive...

➤ **The Church and the Home should look like this: Especially in its actions within**

- Having hearts of compassion within our family and church
- Being humble with each other
- Being meek toward one another
- Bearing with one another
- Forgiving each other as the Lord has forgiven you

❖ 3) Put on Love (6)

- **14 And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.**

➤ Here is the Belt

- Love is a fruit of the Spirit.
- Let me reiterate how important it is to Treasure Christ above all things.
- Let me reiterate how important it is to Seek the things above and set your mind on these things
- If you are not walking in the Spirit... By seeking the things of the Spirit
- **If you are not letting the Word of Christ dwell in you richly**
 - You have no HOPE of putting on love
 - Love is a gift from God
 - **The Bible says: 1 John 4:7-8 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.**
 - ◆ You can not love... unless you spend time with He who is LOVE...
 - ◆ You only learn love when you are in the presence of the One who Loves

➤ Put on Love

- Love is the BELT... it binds everything together in perfect harmony
- Wrap that love around you so it can hold all these other garments in place...
- When Paul wrote this, the belt was used to hold all of a person's garments in place...

➤ We are told to put on love...

- What is love? Well... it is not simply a romantic feeling toward someone...
 - Cause you like they way the smell or look or whatever...
- It is also not just a friendship type of love...

➤ Rather, This Love is agape love:

- It is a willful devoted love...
- It does not run away at the first sign of a problem... it is committed
- **Paul gives characteristics in 1 Cor. 13...** Tells us what it is like and what it is not like:
 - **1 Corinthians 13:4-8 Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails**

➤ We can only understand love by looking at Jesus...

- Love used to be so subjective right?
- In the old testament people were told to love their neighbor...
- **And there were some parameters to help people do this...**
 - Like not coveting or helping out your neighbor
- **But it was not until God became a man in Jesus Christ that we could know what love is...**
 - Jesus explains this very thing to us...
 - **John 13:34 "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.**
- **Jesus demonstrated His love...**
 - **Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.**

- **Paul says... Above All these:**
 - Make this one the most important one.
 - None of the rest matter if you do not love...
 - **Remember what Paul said in 1 Corinthians**
 - 1 Corinthians 13:3 And if I give all my possessions to feed *the poor*, and if I surrender my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing.
- **It Binds everything together in perfect harmony**
 - Binds together: Literally means... makes it all happen... makes it exist...
 - That is so neat...
 - Love helps us live out these other things...
- **I think about how when we love...**
 - We can have a complaint about a person and forgive him at the same time
 - We can rebuke a brother in sin, yet bear with him and forgive him as well...
 - When we love we will have hearts of compassion...
 - When we love we will have true humility because we love them
 - When we love we will genuinely be kind
 - When we love we will bear with others... because we love them
 - When we love, we will forgive... because we are loving like Jesus...
 - And He showed His love by cancelling our debt...
- **Question your capabilities to love!**
 - Are you truly loving... Love demonstrates itself...
 - Love is not a poem or a song... it is action...
 - Love is a denial of self and a placing an emphasis on someone else...
- **How loving are you?**

❖ **We Are Inadequate at Best... especially without Focusing on Jesus**

- **Again I say... I truly believe it is much harder to leave the former ways**
 - Than it is to put on these things
 - This list requires you to actually forget yourself
 - They make you live out Christianity with other people
- **We are not up to the challenge on our own**
 - But when we place our focus on Jesus
 - When we place our adoration on the Son of God... change takes place

❖ **Invitation**

- **Come and Consider these things..**
 - It is not enough to run from former sins
 - It is not enough to turn away from sinful things
 - We are not just conformed away from sin
- **We must also be conformed to be like Christ**
 - We must exhibit his attributes...
 - How well are we doing?