

DIFFERENT

Relationships That Look Like Jesus

COLOSSIANS 3:12-14

What are you wearing?

“Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with **compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience**. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. **Forgive as the Lord forgave you**. And over all these virtues put on **love**, which binds them all together in perfect unity.”

COLOSSIANS 3:12-14 • NIV

01 The question

If someone watched how you treated people for one week — but never heard you talk about your faith — would they know Jesus was shaping your life?

- Faith eventually becomes visible, or it stays theoretical.
- The people closest to us have the most accurate information about us.

02 Where Paul begins

Chosen. Holy. Dearly loved. — identity before instruction.

- We are not working **for** acceptance. We are working **from** it.

03 What are you wearing?

"Clothe yourselves..." Getting dressed is a decision we make every day.

- **Intentional** — nobody gets dressed by accident.
- **Daily** — you don't do it once; you do it again tomorrow.
- **Chosen** — a decision, not a personality type.

04 Five things to put on

COMPASSION I try to understand what you may be carrying.

KINDNESS I contribute something good to your life. *You matter.*

HUMILITY I don't always have to be right.

GENTLENESS Strength without harshness.

PATIENCE I give people room to grow.

- **Compassion asks** “What might be happening in your life?” instead of “What is wrong with you?”
- **Humility says** I may be wrong · Help me understand · What am I missing? · I’m sorry.
- **Gentleness** speaks truth without damaging another person’s dignity.
- **Patience** remembers God is still working on me too.

PAUSE AND THINK

Which one comes most naturally to you? And which one disappears when you are tired, stressed, hurt, or disappointed?

Comes most naturally

Disappears under pressure

ONE THING I WANT TO REMEMBER FROM TONIGHT

NOTES

05 When relationships get difficult

“Bear with each other...” Scripture never promises that loving Jesus makes people easy. People will frustrate, misunderstand, disappoint and disagree with us — *and occasionally we will be the difficult person.*

- **The normal response:** “How do I prove I’m right?”
- **The different response:** “How can I honour Christ *and* this person while addressing the issue?”

01 Be curious before critical.

02 Listen before defending.

03 Seek understanding before demanding agreement.

04 Protect the relationship while addressing the problem.

Unity does not require us to be the same. It requires us to learn how to love through our differences.

06 Forgiveness

It does not mean: pretending nothing happened · removing healthy boundaries · instantly rebuilding trust · saying the behaviour was acceptable.

It does mean: refusing to let resentment, bitterness and retaliation control our hearts.

- “Forgive as the Lord forgave you.” We are not superior people forgiving inferior people — we are forgiven people extending grace to other imperfect people.

07 Above everything — love

“And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.”

The question to carry: *What would love require of me right now?* Love may listen • encourage • forgive • tell the truth • set a healthy boundary • stay present.

SIT WITH THIS ONE

Is there someone whose mistake I am still making them pay for?

ONE PERSON. ONE VIRTUE. ONE ACTION.

THIS WEEK

Not what they need to change. What I can put on.

1 • ONE PERSON — a spouse, child, parent, friend, coworker, neighbour, or someone I find difficult

2 • ONE VIRTUE — *what does this relationship need more of from me?*

☐ Compassion ☐ Kindness ☐ Humility ☐ Gentleness ☐ Patience ☐ Forgiveness ☐ Love

3 • ONE ACTION — *small and actually done beats big and merely intended*

4 • WHEN — name the day, then tick it off

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

SUN

5 • SEVEN DAYS LATER — *what changed in me, and in the relationship?*