

The Wardrobe of a Believer

****Colossians 3:12-14 (NASB 2020)** So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience... In addition to all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity.

John 13:34-35 (NLT) So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples."

I. Love must be put on

Colossians 3:14 (NASB 2020) In addition to all these things **put on love**, which is the perfect bond of unity.

Love: g0026. ἀγάπη agapē; from 25; love, i.e. brotherly love, affection, good will, love, benevolence.

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 (NLT) Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.

1 Peter 4:7-8 (NLT) The end of the world is coming soon. Therefore, be earnest and disciplined in your prayers. Most important of all, continue to show deep love for each other, **for love covers a multitude of sins.**

Matthew 24:12-13 (NASB 2020) And because lawlessness is increased, most people's love will become cold. But the one who endures to the end is the one who will be saved.

Those who were once true to each other will betray each other. This suggests that marriages, homes, and nations will be torn asunder because of a lack of loyalty. Lawlessness will abound (Matt. 24:12), for even the law enforcement agencies will not be able to keep the peace.

II. Forgiveness

Colossians 3:13 (NASB 2020) bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so must you do also.

Colossians 3:8 (NASB 2020) But now you also, rid yourselves of all of them: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene speech from your mouth.

The importance of...

Matthew 6:12 (NASB 2020) And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

Jesus connects the power of a successful prayer life to forgiveness!

****Hebrews 12:15 (NASB 2020)** See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many become defiled;

Ephesians 4:30-32 (NASB 2020) Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. All bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and slander must be removed from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, compassionate, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

****Mark 11:23 (NASB 2020)** Truly I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be taken up and thrown into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says is going to happen, it will be granted to him.

Mark 11:25-26 (NASB 2020) And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father who is in heaven will also forgive you for your offenses. [But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father who is in heaven forgive your offenses.]"

III. Blessing

The opposite is true!

****Mark 11:23 (NASB 2020)** Truly I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be taken up and thrown into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says is going to happen, it will be granted to him.

Opening the door to spiritual Growth

Ephesians 4:15 (AMP) Rather, let our lives lovingly express truth [in all things, speaking truly, dealing truly, living truly]. Enfolded in love, let us grow up in every way and in all things into Him Who is the Head, [even] Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One).

2 Peter 1:7-9 (ESV) ... and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins.

John 15:9-11 (ESV) As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

This doesn't mean we *earn* His love by obedience. Instead, **obedience is the natural response and proof that we are living in His love.**

Abiding in His love produces **deep, lasting joy**—not circumstantial happiness, but a joy rooted in His presence and promises.

Jude 1:20-21 (TLB) But you, dear friends, must build up your lives ever more strongly upon the foundation of our holy faith, learning to pray in the power and strength of the Holy Spirit. Stay always within the boundaries where God's love can reach and bless you.