



COLOSSIANS 3 PART 2

Every morning, we make a conscious decision about what clothes to wear. We check the weather, consider our schedule, and choose an outfit that reflects how we want to be perceived. But how often do we give that same level of intention to our spiritual wardrobe? In Colossians 3, Paul shifts from the internal reality of our new life in Christ to the external expression of it. He tells us that because we are "God's elect, holy and beloved," we must dress the part.

This isn't about legalism or putting on a fake persona. It's about aligning our outer behavior with our inner identity. Just as you wouldn't wear dirty rags to a wedding, you shouldn't wear anger, malice, and lying when you are a child of the King. This study challenges us to open our spiritual closets, burn the old clothes of the flesh, and intentionally "put on" the character of Christ—compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience—held together by the bond of love.

We must "wear what Christ wore for us." Which of the virtues listed in verse 12 (tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering) do you find most difficult to "put on" daily? (OT: Micah 6:8 | NT: Philippians 2:5-7)

Study Questions:

1. True humility isn't thinking less of yourself, but thinking of yourself less. How does the "humbleness of mind" described in the sermon differ from false modesty or low self-esteem? (OT: Proverbs 22:4 | NT: Romans 12:3)
2. Meekness is defined as "power under control." How did Jesus demonstrate this quality when He was arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane? (OT: Numbers 12:3 | NT: Matthew 26:52-53)
3. Longsuffering means having a "long fuse" with provoking people. Why is it essential to remember God's longsuffering toward us when we are tempted to be impatient with others? (OT: Exodus 34:6 | NT: 2 Peter 3:9)
4. Verse 13 addresses having a "complaint against another." Why does the sermon describe complaining as a "bad piece of clothing" that irritates the wearer and those around them? (OT: Numbers 11:1 | NT: Philippians 2:14)
5. Pastor Steve warns that "hand-me-downs are not an excuse for bad behavior." What generational sin or family pattern do you need to stop wearing and "burn" today? (OT: Ezekiel 18:20 | NT: 1 Peter 1:18-19)