

HANDOUT Colossians 3:12-14 NIV “DRESSED TO SERVE!”

God's Word Makes Clear that He Is Actively Creating Godly Character in His Children!

Ephesians 2:10; Ephesians 4:22-24

- God Wants Us to Move Beyond Being Converted To Being Consecrated!
- *God Desires for Each of Us to look Within and Ask, “What in My Life is Stopping God from Transforming Me So that I become More like Christ in every part of my life?”*
- To become Christ-Like requires intentionally, Choosing to put off the Old-And Put on the New!

Our Text Colossians 3: 12-14 *“Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. 13 Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. 14 And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity”.*

- As God's chosen people...Daily, we need to put on the Qualities that Reflect the Character of Jesus. "Clothe Yourselves." When you get up...Put On These Christ-Like Qualities.

How Do We Accomplish Putting Off the Old Man? We accomplish putting off the Old Man by getting rid of our Old Nature Character! Changing the Way We Think, Act and Respond Each day!

- The first two character qualities in our Text are “Compassion and Kindness” *“Clothe Yourselves with Compassion and Kindness.”* A “Heart of Pity.” Sense of Sympathy/Empathy.

The 2nd Christ-Like Character is “Kindness.” **Kindness is “Action that Reveals” Compassion.**

- Kindness can take many different forms---a Smile, a Kind Word, a Pat on the Shoulder, an Invitation to Lunch, or an Offer of Help.
- **READ LUKE 10:30-35** After the Priest and Levite pass by, the Samaritan stops, loves, heals, gives, and even goes the extra mile and says, whatever else they need, put that on my account. Here we see the difference between being Religious or making a Difference For God.

My Question is...WHY DO SOME STOP...WHILE OTHERS PASS BY?

A New Church Program is Not Gods Plan for His Church...God's Plan is that we STOP PASSING BY...Stop Passing up the Opportunity to Make a Difference In the World.

Let's take a Closer Look at Those who Passed By in this Story...to Learn What Caused them to Pass By... And the Reasons Why We Might Pass By...And What Will Cause Us to Stop.

Our text says...When they saw the man in distress The Priest and a Levite Passed By On the Other Side!

Our Text Makes the Point that both the Priest and Levite actually had to Go Out of Their Way *{Passing on the Other Side of the Street}* to Keep On Their Way.

- Both Busy in Religious Service...YET NOT BEING CHRIST TO THIS POOR MAN!

God's Goal for US Is Not Just Theology, Spiritual Recognition, OR...Being Busy with Church Stuff...God's Goal for Each of Us Is to Understand Our Responsibility to Be Christ to Others.

Let's Consider Why they Might have Passed By? They May have Been in a Hurry to Get to Synagogue: Religion can turn our Focus to the Four Walls Under the Steeple.

They may have Decided the Person had it Coming to Them. Many times the Lack of Effort in Helping Persons in Need is that we Judge them inappropriately! they should have been in Church...Or they should have listened to us.

Maybe they Just Cared Less! You Know...As long as I'm Righteous, as long as I'm on My Way to Heaven, as long as My Family is Doing Good...etc.

- Religion has the Tendency of Making People Self-Centered and Self-Absorbed.

Why Might We Pass By?

One of the main reasons we might not care for the lost and hurting in this world is the effort required to help people. It takes Time, Effort, Energy and Sometimes Money. It's just Easier to go to the Weekly Praise-a-thon, or a Spiritual event than in Love to Sacrifice {Have Compassion and show Kindness} for Another.

Or Maybe...We Just Don't like People Like Christ—Oh We love the church, We love the ministry, We love the conferences, the councils, the committee meetings...But...Don't Like Dealing with Problematic People!

- It's like, if it weren't for All these Problem People, the World would Be a Better Place.

KEY POINT: When We Get Out of the People Caring Business...WE PASS BY! ONLY ONE THING WILL CAUSE US TO STOP...AND THAT IS "COMPASSION"!

Until We have Genuine Compassion and Love for Sinners, the Lost, the Sick, the Lonely...The Hurting of Society...WE WON'T EVER STOP!

Barna Research Shows that The Church is Losing its Impact on Society...Mainly Because of a Loss of Compassion...and Kindness founded in Christ Like Love for God and His People!

Each of Us...Here at Life Point Church has the Ability and Responsibility to Make a Difference...But...It will take having a Fresh Focus on the Cross!

When We Realize that Christ Did NOT Just Die for US...But for this Whole World, It Should Be the Attitude Adjustment that Will Cause Us to Stop, Help, Care and Listen.

KEY POINT: Maybe You Will Get Burned at Times...Maybe Some Will Take Advantage of You, But at Least You Will Be On the RIGHT SIDE OF THE ROAD!!

- You'll Be the Good Samaritan that God will use to Bring others into Eternity!

Jesus Tells Us to Walk on the Right Side of the Road. Anyone who is a Giver, Helper, A Person of Love and Compassion, Showing Kindness...is a True Neighbor.

So many people profess a great love for God, But 1st John says, *that Our Love for God who We have Never Seen is Proven by How We Love Those Who We Do See.*

Matthew 25:35,36,40: " 35 For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, 36 I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me. 40 "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'"

"People do not care how much you know, until they know how much you care."

"LIFE" POINT: WITHOUT A HEART OF COMPASSION...WE WILL JUST PASS BY!