



**Focus**  
**Col. 3:12-17: Put Me on Blast**  
**Pastor Jerome Gay Jr.**

**Announcements**

- Collections continue for hurricane victims.
- One service Thanksgiving weekend at 10a.
- \$8000 worth of repairs needed if we can get everyone to give \$60 above your regular giving we'll hit our goal.

**Don't put me on blast.** Have you ever used this phrase? The more common one is **don't tell anyone my business.** There are many ways to say it, but what does it mean when we feel like we have to hide ourselves? **Is there something about you that you hope people never find out?** Is there a secret that you've been guarding with your life for what feels like all of your life? There's something about exposure that's frightening and because we're scared of being exposed we hide aspects of ourselves that we think will harm opportunities and/or relationships. So, we build our lives to guard a public persona while feeling like a private failure because if people knew the real you they'd turn on you, so the masks stays on, true feelings are suppressed, confession is avoided, the real you remains a mystery and your "reputation" stay intact. Does it really? **(secrets I hide:**

**porn, fighting, sexual abuse, domestic abuse, etc.)** The problem with thinking like this is that living with secrets actually makes us prisoners to our secrets, it's in confession and exposure that freedom is actually attained. This is James says in **James 5:16** that confession leads to healing:

**James 5:16**

<sup>16</sup>Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.

I know what you're thinking, If I try that my business will end up in the street and exposure simply doesn't work. If you're thinking that it's probably because you don't know the point of God exposing, you. Exposure isn't simply about "telling your business," the **point of exposure is healing and transformation (David and Nathan).** **Could it be that what's keeping you hostage is your refusal to simply tell on yourself?** The longer I walk with Christ and the longer I've been in ministry one of the things I've learned is it's always better to tell on yourself rather than to "get caught, but watch this **even getting caught is God's grace.** God exposes you because He loves you and this is clear in what Paul pens in his letter to the church at Colossae. There's a reason that Jesus is known as the light of the world (John 8:12). Light exposes darkness, but it also removes it.

**Thought Tattoo**

God graciously exposes you, in order to mercifully clothe you.

This is the process Paul has been describing in Colossians 3.

Paul has been telling us about how God exposes in order to clothe us. God doesn't expose your dirt and say, "see look at you," no instead, he says, "see this is why I want to clothe you." Let Him put you on blast so he can take you to new heights.

### Col. 3:12-13

<sup>12</sup> Put on then, **as God's chosen ones**, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, <sup>13</sup> 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.

### Take Note...

Your attitude **exposes** your gratitude.

After telling us what to **put to death** in verses 5-11, Paul then focuses on what we are to put on. He mentions a several characteristics that believers should embody. Before providing us a list he says something that we certainly shouldn't gloss over. He calls them "God's chosen ones..." This points to God's role in our salvation, he graciously draws us to himself, making us His own and He secures us for eternity. The beautiful thing about God's selection is that unlike us, He doesn't choose the most talented and gifted as we would if we were putting together a sports team or staff, but He goes after the depraved. Restores the rejected, loves the lonely and builds the broken. Typically, many debate over the mechanics of God's choice, rather than the means. Jesus is the one who makes salvation possible; He's the embodiment of the gospel. After encouraging us by reminding us of that we're chosen, Paul then tells us how to dress as God's children. This is in

contrast to what he told us earlier. If we recall Paul was specific in telling us what we need to put to death.

### Reject the old self (Col. 3:8)

- Anger
- Wrath
- Malice
- Slander
- Obscene Talk

The aforementioned had a target as the Greek, Jew, circumcised, uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free were all members of the same community by faith. Racial and cultural tensions were high back then just as we're seeing now after this highly divisive political race. During this time the **Jew wanted nothing to do with Greek, the barbarians were considered uneducated and useless and the Scythians were savages that delighted in beating people up.** The Gospel tears down those barriers and gives us an opportunity to reveal the unity made possible by Christ (Eph. 2:13-16). It's interesting that Paul would affirm who we are in him before telling us what to wear. **The clothes don't add value to you they reveal who you belong to.** Think about it for a second; in Christ I'm...

1. **Chosen** – *eklektos* means **He wants me.** Life and people will cause you to questions your value and some of us have even been told that we're not wanted, but one of the beautiful aspects of salvation is that **God doesn't choose us based on merit, but rather his choice is based on His own mercy** (Rom. 9:13-16, 19-22). There's something beautiful

about being chosen when you feel like or know that you don't bring anything to the table. (fickleness of people: habits)

2. **Holy** – *hagios* means **He cleanses me**. To be holy means to be set apart. We're not called to fit in and compromise, but rather we stand out. We're obviously not holy within ourselves, but rather we're made holy by faith in Christ and His Indwelling Holy Spirit.
3. **Beloved** – *agapao* means **He loves me**. Two things that everyone wants; to be **known** and to be **loved**. Society and our life experiences have taught us that we can't have both. Here's what I mean, you and I have had experiences that have taught us that when people know the real us, that they no longer love or want us. It's only in the Gospel that Jesus offers that we're fully known and still loved. He knows everything about you, EVERYTHING and He still loves you, but don't forget that he chose to love knowing ALL of your flaws, addictions, secrets and tendencies. There's no better love than a love you don't have to play or pretend in order to receive! (Love and Basketball "double or nothing")

Paul tells us several items to "put on," this is to emphasize the new nature we have in Christ. In other words, your faith should be visible in how you and I live and interact with people.

- **Compassion** – it means that we should have sympathy and empathy for others. Not caring for people is something that should never be associated with a believer. (Job's friends didn't show

compassion)

- **Patience** – in context this isn't just referring to patience that only benefits you as you wait for something or someone, but rather this patience has to do with being **patient with people**. It means not being resentful and angry with people.
- **Bearing** – this means to endure together as persecution comes as a result of the faith. **Enduring isn't enabling!** We don't exploit someone else's sin to build our own platform or audience, but rather we walk with each other.
- **Forgiving** – the structure of the text uses a reflexive pronoun meaning that it means forgiving yourselves. **I'm amazed at how unforgiving the Christian community can be**. Notice what Paul does here, he says "forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive." This echoes The Lord's Prayer where we say, "forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors." (Matt. 6:12). **If you don't think that you've been forgiven much, you will justify resentment.** (Joseph and his brothers – what is forgiving someone that hurt you was part of their healing)

#### Take Note...

Your actions **expose** your true motivations.

#### Col. 3:14

<sup>14</sup>And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

The aforementioned are useless without love, otherwise they become manipulative tactics to win someone's favor.

Think of **love as the belt (thread)** that keeps the outfit together. When Paul writes of the fruit of the Spirit the first one he mentions is **love** (Gal. 5:22). Love is a characteristic that should mark every believer and should be the mark of every church (John 13:35). Without love you and I, Paul says are like music that's out of tune, he calls it a **noisy gong or a clanging cymbal** (1 Cor. 13:1) **(American Idol singers)**. Unloving Christians are all talk and not action and they hurt the witness of the church because their actions don't match the faith they claim. One of the true marks of maturity in Christ is if you're growing in your love for Christ and your love for others. Disciples become more and more loving over time.

### Col. 3:15

<sup>15</sup> And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.

### What does it mean for the peace of Christ to rule our hearts?

The first thing it means is that we're at peace with God. We must never forget that salvation isn't about avoiding hell, but it's also about avoiding God's wrath because prior to trusting Christ, you and I were not at peace with God, but through the life, death, burial and resurrection of Christ God and you/I are at peace. Paul then says to let the peace of God "rule your hearts." **There's an interesting Greek word use here, it's the word *brabeuo* carries the idea of an official in a professional sport.** The official has the final say and as it relates to our lives, the fact that we're at peace with God should govern our lives in three primary ways:

- How I make decisions?
- How I treat people?
- What I do.

My life (outfit) should reflect my oneness with Christ. **Being at peace with Christ leads to wanting to be at peace with others.** Within the church we should fight for unity because it let's the world know who we serve. Notice I said we should want to be at peace and be ready to be at peace, because you can't control the other person:

### Rom. 12:18

<sup>18</sup> If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

**We should pursue unity as an outpouring of the forgiveness we've received from Christ. Notice Paul tells us the attitude we should have for being at peace with God. He says, "and be thankful."** Thankfulness should be a natural response to salvation by grace and through faith. God squashed the beef between you and him, didn't use your sin against you, gave you other imperfect believers to do life with and uses you for His glory.

Thankful:

- Grace and mercy.
- Body of Christ.
- New outfit.
- Exposure.

### Col. 3:16-17

<sup>16</sup> 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. <sup>17</sup>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.

I love how Paul ends this section. He doesn't just give us head knowledge about exposure and how it good for us, but he talks about the emotive response. In other words, our response to what God has done and the new outfit that he's given us shouldn't be mechanical. There's a feeling of joy associated with what he's done that seen in several ways:

- **Teaching and Encouragement** – we want a culture of encouragement here. Fight to see the good in people and verbally affirm it.
- **Wisdom and Maturity** – exposure isn't just telling on yourself to say you did it. It's about growing up; we exist to help each other grow and anyone in Christ shouldn't be stagnate in their growth and maturity.
- **Praise and Worship** – notice Paul says singing song in your heart. He doesn't mean that we shouldn't sing out loud, what he's saying is that since we're at peace with God, we should sing His praises as we live lives that praise Him. Worship should never be viewed as something "before the sermon." **Worship is a lifestyle and how we praise Him corporately is indicative of how or if we praise Him privately.**
- **Thankfulness** – there it is again. Are you thankful for the people in your life? Keep in mind who this letter is written to. What Paul is driving home is thankfulness for God leads to thankfulness for others. (dirty shirt)

### **Now What?**

I don't think it could be more clear than verse seventeen:

### **Col. 3:17**

<sup>17</sup>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.