

## Getting Dressed as a Believer: Putting on Our Spiritual Clothing

### Colossians 3:12-13

- BGT** <sup>12</sup>Ἐνδύσασθε οὖν, ὡς ἐκλεκτοὶ τοῦ θεοῦ ἅγιοι καὶ ἠγαπημένοι, σπλάγχνα οἰκτιρμοῦ χρηστότητα ταπεινοφροσύνην πραύτητα μακροθυμίαν, <sup>13</sup>ἀνεχόμενοι ἀλλήλων καὶ χαριζόμενοι ἑαυτοῖς ἐάν τις πρὸς τινα ἔχη μομφήν· καθὼς καὶ ὁ κύριος ἔχαρίσατο ὑμῖν, οὕτως καὶ ὑμεῖς·
- NKJ** <sup>12</sup>Therefore, as *the* elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; <sup>13</sup>bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also *must* do.

#### REVIEW

*If then you were raised with Christ,*

- **Be Seeking the Above Things (Col 3:1)**
- **Be Thinking the Above Things (Col 3:2)**
- **Put to Death Sinful Motivations (Col 3:5-7)**
- **Put Off Sinful Actions (Col 3:8-10)**
  1. When Is It To Be Done? **Now (not later).**
  2. Who Is To Do It? **I am responsible to do this. It is my job, not someone else's job.**
  3. What Is To Be Done? **Take off, set aside** (immediate, decisive action)
  4. What Is It To Be Done To?
    - a. **I Am to Remove Sinful Uses of Emotions**
      - 1) Anger (*orgēn*): **chronic anger** “**growling**”
      - 2) Wrath (*thumon*): **overflowing anger** “**exploding**”
      - 3) Malice (*kakian*): **vengeful anger** “**hurting**”
    - b. **I Am to Remove Sinful Uses of Speech**
      - 1) Blasphemy (*blasphemian*): **derogatory or injurious speech**
      - 2) Filthy language (*aischrologian*): **dirty or immoral speech**
      - 3) Lying (*psuedesthe*): **dishonest or inaccurate speech**

#### THREE REASONS WHY THESE CHANGES ARE SO IMPORTANT TO MAKE:

- I. Because you have put off the old man with his deeds
- II. Because you have put on the new man
- III. Because all stand equal in Christ
  - A. No possibility
  - B. No partitions (ways of classifying humanity into two categories)
    1. racial, national, ethnic (Greek, Jew)
    2. religious, ritualistic (Circumcised, Uncircumcised)
    3. cultural, educational (Barbarian, Scythian)
    4. social, economic (Slave, Free)

Therefore, “Clothe Yourself” (aor imp middle)

#### A Brief Study of the Analogy of Clothing in the Christian Position and Practice

1. **Past “Clothing” – What Has Already Been Put On**
  - a. Believers Have Been Clothed with **Power From Above** (Luke 24:49)
  - b. Believers Have Been Clothed with **Christ** (Gal 3:27)
  - c. Believers Have Been Clothed with the **New Man** (Col 3:10)
2. **Present “Clothing” – What Needs to Be Put On Now**
  - a. Clothe Yourself with the **Armor of Light** (Rom 13:12)
  - b. Clothe (x!) Yourself with **Christ** (Rom 13:14)
  - c. Clothe Yourself with the **New Man** (Eph 4:24)
  - d. Clothe (x!) Yourself with the **Whole Armor of God** (Eph 6:11)
  - e. Clothe Yourself with the **Breastplate of Righteousness** (Eph 6:14)
  - f. Clothe (x!) Yourself with **Christian Conduct** (Col 3:12)
  - g. Clothe Yourself with the **Breastplate of Faith and Love** (1 Thes 5:8)
3. **Future “Clothing” – What Will Be Put On**

We Will Be Clothed with **Immortality** (1 Cor 15:53)

## 7 Articles of Spiritual Clothing that a Believer Is Commanded to Put On

Just as our physical clothing reflects our beliefs and intentions, making a statement about both, our spiritual clothing is to reflect our beliefs and purposes about God, making a clear statement about Him! We are to reflect in our lives what we have received from God. Like getting clothes as a gift. Every article is something we've received from God ourselves.

### 1. Put on "Tender Mercies" by Choosing to See and Feel the Needs of Others (Be Aware and Care/Affected)

(σπλάγχνα οίκτιρμου – splagchna oiktirmou – **yearnings of mercy**)

**splagchnon** – σπλάγχνον ("feelings" or "yearnings" – 11x in 11 verses)

- [UBS] one's inmost self or feelings, heart; affection, love
- [Fri] (1) literally, intestines (2) (a) figuratively, inner seat of tender emotions "heart, stomach, bowels" (b) the emotion itself "affection, compassion"
- [Thayer] "in the Greek poets from Aeschylus down the bowels were regarded as the seat of the more violent passions, such as anger and love; but by the Hebrews as the seat of the tenderer affections, especially kindness, benevolence, compassion"

Acts 1:18 Now this man purchased a field with the wages of iniquity; and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his **entrails** gushed out. (ἐξεχύθη πάντα τὰ σπλάγχνα αὐτοῦ)

2 Cor 7:15 And his **affections** are greater for you as he remembers the obedience of you all, how with fear and trembling you received him. (τὰ σπλάγχνα αὐτοῦ)

Phil 1:8 For God is my witness, how greatly I long for you all with the **affection** of Jesus Christ. (ἐν σπλάγχνοις Χριστοῦ Ἰησοῦ)

Phil 2:1 Therefore if [there is] any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any **affection** and mercy, (τις σπλάγχνα καὶ οίκτιρμοί)

1 John 3:17 But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his **heart** from him, how does the love of God abide in him? (κλείση τὰ σπλάγχνα αὐτοῦ ἀπ' αὐτοῦ)

#### VERB

Matt 9:36 But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.

ἰδὼν δὲ τοὺς ὄχλους ἐσπλαγχνίσθη περὶ αὐτῶν, ὅτι ἦσαν ἐσκυλμένοι καὶ ἐρριμμένοι ὡσεὶ πρόβατα μὴ ἔχοντα ποιμένα.

Matt 14:14 And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick.

Καὶ ἐξελθὼν εἶδεν πολὺν ὄχλον καὶ ἐσπλαγχνίσθη ἐπ' αὐτοῖς καὶ ἐθεράπευσεν τοὺς ἀρρώστους αὐτῶν.

**oiktirmos** – οίκτιρμός (5x in NT)

- [UBS] compassion, mercy, pity
- Rom 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the **mercies** of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, [which is] your reasonable service. (διὰ τῶν οίκτιρμῶν τοῦ θεοῦ)
- 2 Cor 1:3 Blessed [be] the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of **mercies** and God of all comfort,

### 2. Put on "Kindness" by Choosing to Benefit Others as You Seek to Meet Their Needs (Act Beneficially)

χρηστότητα – chrestoteeta – kindness (10x in 8 verses)

- [LN] a. an event or activity which is useful or benevolent; b. to provide something beneficial for someone as an act of kindness
- [LS] of persons, goodness, honesty 2. goodness of heart, kindness

Rom 2:4 Or do you despise the riches of His **goodness**, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance? (ἡ τοῦ πλοῦτου τῆς χρηστότητος αὐτοῦ)

Rom 3:12c There is none who does **good**, no, not one. (οὐκ ἔστιν ὁ ποιῶν χρηστότητα, [οὐκ ἔστιν] ἕως ἐνός)

2 Cor 6:6 by purity, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by **kindness**, by the Holy Spirit, by sincere love, (6:4-10)

Gal 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, **kindness**, goodness, faithfulness,

Eph 2:7 that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in [His] **kindness** toward us in Christ Jesus. (ἐν χρηστότητι ἐφ' ἡμᾶς ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ.)

Titus 3:4 But when the **kindness** and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, (See Titus 3:1-7)

### 3. Put on "Humility" by Choosing to Consider Yourself to Be a Servant to Others (Selflessly Serve)

ταπεινοφροσύνην – tapeinophrosuneen – humility or lowly-minded

- Acts 20:19 "serving the Lord with all **humility**, with many tears and trials which happened to me..."
- Eph 4:2 with all **lowliness** and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, (4:1-3)
- Phil 2:3 [Let] nothing [be done] through selfish ambition or conceit, but in **lowliness of mind** let each esteem others better than himself.
- 1 Peter 5:5 Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to [your] elders. Yes, all of [you] be submissive to one another, and be clothed with **humility**, for "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the **humble**."

### 4. Put on "Meekness" by Choosing to Approach Others with Gentleness and Consideration (Softly Speak)

πραΰτητα – prauteeta – meekness; gentleness; consideration (11x in NT)

[LN] gentleness of attitude and behavior, in contrast with harshness in one's dealings with others

1 Cor 4:21 What do you want? Shall I come to you with a rod, or in love and a spirit of gentleness?

2 Cor 10:1 Now I, Paul, myself am pleading with you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ -- who in presence [am] lowly among you, but being absent am bold toward you.

Gal 5:23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

Gal 6:1 Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.

Eph 4:2 with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love,

2 Tim 2:25 in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth,

Titus 3:2 to speak evil of no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing all humility to all men.

James 3:13 Who [is] wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct [that] his works [are done] in the meekness of wisdom.

1 Peter 3:15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always [be] ready to [give] a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;

## 5. Put on “Longsuffering” by Choosing to Give People Time and Grace to Grow (Patiently Care/Gracious Expectations)

μακροθυμίαν – makrothumian – longsuffering (11x in NT)

1 Cor 13:4 “Love suffers long” (verb form)

hang in there with difficulty, with difficult people, or with people’s difficulties

[UBS] patience

[Fri] as a state of emotional quietness in the face of unfavorable circumstances: patience, long-suffering; (1) as patience under trial: endurance, steadfastness; (2) as constraint exercised toward others: forbearance, patience; (3) as God’s constraint of his wrath: long-suffering, forbearance

Rom 2:4 Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?

2 Cor 6:6 by purity, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Spirit, by sincere love,

Gal 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

Eph 4:2 with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love,

1 Tim 1:16 However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life.

2 Tim 4:2 Preach the word! Be ready in season [and] out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.

Heb 6:12 that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

James 5:10 My brethren, take the prophets, who spoke in the name of the Lord, as an example of suffering and patience.

1 Peter 3:20 who formerly were disobedient, when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while [the] ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water.

2 Peter 3:15 and consider [that] the longsuffering of our Lord [is] salvation -- as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you,

## 6. Put on “Bearing with One Another” by Choosing to Put Up with the Faults of Others (Purposefully Ignore or Persist in Ministry)

ἀνεχόμενοι ἀλλήλων – anechomenoi alleelon –

to hold within (if “ana”)? To not hold (if “an”)? To hold up?

“love will cover a multitude of sins” (1 Peter 4:8; Proverbs 10:12 “Hatred stirs up strife, But love covers all sins.”)

[Fri] ἀνέχω impf. mid. ἀνειχόμεν; fut. mid. ἀνέξομαι; 2aor. mid. ἀνεσχόμεν; only middle in the NT; (1) as exercising self-restraint and tolerance endure (patiently), put up with, bear with (EP 4.2); (2) accept as valid, listen to (2T 4.3; HE 13.22)

[Thayer] ἀνέχω: in the N. T. only in the middle; to hold up (e. g. κεφαλὴν, χεῖρας, Homer and others); hence, in middle to hold oneself erect and firm (against any person or thing), to sustain, to bear (with equanimity), to bear with, endure, with a genitive of the person (in Greek writings the accusative is more common, both of the person and of the thing), of his opinions, actions, etc.

Matt 17:17 Then Jesus answered and said, “O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him here to Me.”

1 Cor 4:12 And we labor, working with our own hands. Being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we endure;

2 Cor 11:19 For you **put up with** fools gladly, since you [yourselves] are wise! (ἡδέως γὰρ ἀνέχεσθε τῶν ἀφρόνων)

Eph 4:2 with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, **bearing** with one another in love,

2 Tim 4:3 For the time will come when they will not **endure** sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, [because] they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers;

Heb 13:22 And I appeal to you, brethren, **bear with** the word of exhortation, for I have written to you in few words.

## 7. Put on “Forgiving One Another” by Choosing to Release Others from Their Sin Debts (Tear up the Bills)

χαριζόμενοι ἑαυτοῖς – charidzomenoi heautois (23x in NT)

[UBS] *grant, give, bestow on; deal generously or graciously with, forgive, pardon; hand over or release (of a prisoner); cancel a debt; be returned*

Luke 7:42 "And when they had nothing with which to repay, he freely **forgave** them both. Tell Me, therefore, which of them will love him more?"

Rom 8:32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely **give** us all things?

Eph 4:32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, **forgiving** one another, just as God in Christ **forgave** you.

Col 2:13 And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, **having forgiven** you all trespasses,

Colossians 3:13 bearing with one another, and **forgiving** one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ **forgave** you, so you also [must do].

### Parallel Passages:

**2 Corinthians 6:4-10** <sup>4</sup> But in all *things* we commend ourselves as ministers of God: in much patience, in tribulations, in needs, in distresses, <sup>5</sup> in stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness, in fastings; <sup>6</sup> by purity, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Spirit, by sincere love, <sup>7</sup> by the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left, <sup>8</sup> by honor and dishonor, by evil report and good report; as deceivers, and *yet* true; <sup>9</sup> as unknown, and *yet* well known; as dying, and behold we live; as chastened, and *yet* not killed; <sup>10</sup> as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and *yet* possessing all things.

**Galatians 5:22-26** <sup>2</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. <sup>24</sup> And those *who are* Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. <sup>25</sup> ¶ If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. <sup>26</sup> Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

**Ephesians 4:1-3** I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, <sup>2</sup> with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, <sup>3</sup> endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

**Eph 4:32** And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, **forgiving** one another, just as God in Christ **forgave** you.

**Col 3:12-13** <sup>12</sup> Ἐνδύσασθε οὖν, ὡς ἐκλεκτοὶ τοῦ θεοῦ ἅγιοι καὶ ἠγαπημένοι, σπλάγχνα οἰκτιρμοῦ χρηστότητα ταπεινοφροσύνην πραύτητα μακροθυμίαν, <sup>13</sup> ἀνεχόμενοι ἀλλήλων καὶ χαριζόμενοι ἑαυτοῖς ἕαν τις πρὸς τινα ἔχη μομφήν· καθὼς καὶ ὁ κύριος ἔχαρισατο ὑμῖν, οὕτως καὶ ὑμεῖς·

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, as *the* elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; <sup>13</sup> bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also *must do*.

**Titus 3:1-7** Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work, <sup>2</sup> to speak evil of no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing all humility to all men. <sup>3</sup> For we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another. <sup>4</sup> But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, <sup>5</sup> not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, <sup>6</sup> whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, <sup>7</sup> that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Choosing to Be Aware and to Care: Yearnings of mercy (see the need, and feel the need)

Choosing to Benefit (or act on that care): Kindness

Choosing to Be Selfless and Serve: Lowliness of mind

Choosing to Be Patient (Wait? To Give People Time?): Longsuffering

Choosing to Be Soft and Considerate (Gentle): Meekness

Choosing to Ignore Peoples' Faults (love covers...): Bearing with

Choosing to Release (let go of) Peoples' Sins: Forgiving (tear up the bill)