

Three Essential Components to Christian Maturity

Colossians 3:14-15

BGT	¹⁴ ἐπὶ πάσιν δὲ τούτοις τὴν ἀγάπην, ὃ ἐστὶν σύνδεσμος τῆς τελειότητος. ¹⁵ καὶ ἡ εἰρήνη τοῦ Χριστοῦ βραβευέτω ἐν ταῖς καρδίαις ὑμῶν, εἰς ἣν καὶ ἐκλήθητε ἐν ἐνὶ σώματι· καὶ εὐχάριστοι γίνεσθε.
NKJ	¹⁴ But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. ¹⁵ And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.

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)**
- **Put On Spiritual Clothing (3:12-13)**

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

1. Put on "Tender Mercies" by Choosing to See and Feel the Needs of Others (Be Aware and Care/Affected)
2. Put on "Kindness" by Choosing to Benefit Others as You Seek to Meet Their Needs (Act Beneficially)
3. Put on "Humility" by Choosing to Consider Yourself to Be a Servant to Others (Selflessly Serve)
4. Put on "Meekness" by Choosing to Approach Others with Gentleness and Consideration (Softly Speak)
5. Put on "Longsuffering" by Choosing to Give People Time and Grace to Grow (Patiently Care)
6. Put on "Bearing with One Another" by Choosing to Put Up with the Faults of Others (Purposefully Ignore)
7. Put on "Forgiving One Another" by Choosing to Release Others from Their Sin Debts (Tear up the Bills)

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1. Be _____ with the _____ of God (14)

- a. "and in addition to all these" seven spiritual articles of "clothing" ("But above all these things" ἐπὶ πάσιν δὲ τούτοις)
- b. [Put on] this final completing article of "clothing" ("the love" τὴν ἀγάπην)
 - 1:4 since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of your love for all the saints;
 - 1:8 who also declared to us your love in the Spirit.
 - 2:2a that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love...
- c. which is a bond (ὃ ἐστὶν σύνδεσμος) - σύνδεσμος that which binds together, bond; chain or bundle; ligament (4x)
 - Eph 4:3 endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.
 - Col 2:19 and not holding fast to the Head, from whom all the body, nourished and knit together ...
- d. "of perfection" ("of the maturity" or completeness or wholeness τῆς τελειότητος – used only 2x)
 - Perfection of the clothing or of the one clothed? Completion of clothing or maturity of the one clothed?
Heb 6:1 Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary *principles* of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God,
 - τέλειος – (telios) complete, perfect, whole, mature (19x in 17 verses)
Matt 19:21 Jesus said to him, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me."
1 Cor 2:6 However, we speak wisdom among those who are mature, yet not the wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing.
1 Cor 14:20 Brethren, do not be children in understanding; however, in malice be babes, but in understanding be mature.
Eph 4:13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;
Phil 3:15 Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind; and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you.
Col 1:28 Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.
Col 4:12 Epaphras, who is *one* of you, a bondservant of Christ, greets you, always laboring fervently for you in prayers, that you may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.
Heb 5:14 But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, *that is*, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.
James 3:2 For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he *is* a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body.
1 John 4:18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.
 - τελειώω – (teleioō) to make perfect or complete or whole or mature or to finish
James 2:22 Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect?
1 John 2:5 But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him.
1 John 4:12 No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us.

2. Be _____ by the _____ of Christ (15a)

- a. Be umpiring (~!) – “Let the peace of Christ make the governing call”
- b. In the hearts of you (ἐν ταῖς καρδίαις ὑμῶν) x – καρδία – heart, inner self; mind; will, desire, intention (5x)
- o 2:2 that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love...
 - o 3:16 ...singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.
 - o 4:8 I am sending him to you for this very purpose, that he may know your circumstances and comfort your hearts,
- c. “Unto which also you were called” (εἰς ἣν καὶ ἐκλήθητε)
- o 1 Cor 1:9 God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
 - o Eph 4:1 I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,
 - o Eph 4:4 There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling;
- d. “In one body” (ἐν ἐνὶ σώματι)
- o 1:18 And He is the head of the body, the church...
 - o 1:24 ... for the sake of His body, which is the church,
 - o 2:19 and not holding fast to the Head, from whom all the body, nourished and knit together by joints and ligaments...
- e. Parallel passages
- o Rom 14:19 Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another.
 - o 2 Tim 2:22 Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.
 - o 1 Pet 3:11 Let him turn away from evil and do good; Let him seek peace and pursue it.
 - o 2 Pet 3:14 Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless;
 - o Heb 12:14 Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord:
 - o James 3:18 Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.
- εἰρηνεύω – be at peace (4x)
- o Mark 9:50 “Salt is good, but if the salt loses its flavor, how will you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and have peace with one another.”
 - o Rom 12:18 If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.
 - o 2 Cor 13:11b Be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.
 - o 1 Thes 5:13b Be at peace among yourselves.
- f. WARNING!: The common misuse of this verse...
- o A feeling of inner peace that acts as a confirmation or guide for decisions and actions
 - o “I have peace about it.”
 - o This is not internal, but relational, as the verse and the context clearly indicate.

3. Be _____ in _____ to God (15b)

- a. Be thankful (~! – καὶ εὐχάριστοι γίνεσθε – “become ever thankful”)
- b. “Become” (γίνομαι – become, be; happen, take place, arise; come into being, be born or created; be done)
- o Matt 10:16b Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves.
 - o Matt 24:44 Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.
 - o Luke 6:36 Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful.
 - o 1 Cor 4:16 Therefore I urge you, imitate me.
 - o 1 Cor 14:20 Brethren, do not be children (μὴ παιδία γίνεσθε) in understanding; however, in malice be babes, but in understanding be mature (τέλειοι γίνεσθε).
 - o 1 Cor 15:58b ...be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord...
 - o Eph 4:32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another...
 - o James 1:22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.
- c. “Thankful” (adjective used only here in the NT) – a characteristic of mature believers → gratefulness
- o VERB – εὐχαριστέω thank, give thanks; be thankful, be grateful (38x in 37 verses)
 - o Matt 15:36 And He took the seven loaves and the fish and gave thanks, broke them and gave them to His disciples; and the disciples gave to the multitude.
 - o Matt 26:27 Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you.
 - o Rom 1:21 because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful (ηὐχαρίστησαν), but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.
 - o Col 1:12 giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.
 - o Col 3:17 And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks (εὐχαριστοῦντες) to God the Father through Him.
 - o 1 Thes 5:18 in everything give thanks (εὐχαριστεῖτε); for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.
 - o NOUN – εὐχαριστία, ας f thanksgiving, thanks; gratitude, thankfulness (15x in 15 verses)
 - o Eph 5:4 neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks.
 - o Phil 4:6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;
 - o Col 2:7 rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving (εὐχαριστία).
 - o Col 4:2 Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving (εὐχαριστία);
 - o Rev 4:9 Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks (εὐχαριστίαν) to Him who sits on the throne...
 - o Rev 7:12 saying: “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom, Thanksgiving (εὐχαριστία) and honor and power and might, Be to our God forever and ever. Amen.”