

Gospel Therefore

“Hello, New Man.” Putting On Love

Colossians 3:8-25

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Peter LaRuffa / 24-Jun-2012

Remember... the penalty of sin was paid by Jesus Christ’s death on the cross (justification). Sin’s power is still at work in our lives, and we must rule over it (Gen. 4:7). This process of life transformation is called **progressive sanctification**.

If someone is truly saved—their penalty truly paid—they will be growing & changing to be more like Christ. Life transformation is the litmus test of genuine saving faith.

2 Cor. 3:18 “And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of God, **are being transformed...**”

1 John 1:9 “If we confess our sins, he is faithful & just to forgive us our sins **and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**”

Rom. 8:29 “For those whom he foreknew he also predestined **to be conformed to the image of his Son...**”

Romans 12:2 “... **be transformed** by the renewing of your mind...”

Eph. 4:22-24 “put off your old self... **be renewed** in the spirit of your minds... put on the new self, created after the likeness of God...”

Col. 3:9,10 “... seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, **which is being renewed** in knowledge after the image of its creator.”

God transforms us into His image while we do our part to maintain our “spiritual hygiene” by putting off sin (the “old man”) and putting on Christ-like virtues (the “new man”).

“ <u>PUT OFF</u> ”	“ <u>PUT ON</u> ”
anger	compassionate hearts
wrath	kindness
malice	humility
slander	meekness
obscene talk	patience

Col. 3:14 “**And above all these put on love**, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.”

A more literal translation of Col. 3:14b from the original Greek text would read something like this:

“And above all these put on love, **which is the perfect bond of unity.**”

“Love is the most important moral quality in the believer’s life, for it is the very glue that produces unity in the church.”

MacArthur, John. *The MacArthur New Testament Commentary: Colossians & Philemon*.
Chicago: Moody Publishers, 1992. 157. Print.

1. The Bible is clear. Nothing is acceptable to God if it’s not motivated by love.

1 Cor. 13:1-3 “If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, **but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal**. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, **but have not love, I am nothing**. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, **but have not love, I gain nothing**.”

Philp. 1:9 “And it is my prayer that **your love may abound more and more**, with knowledge and all discernment,”

Gal. 5:6 “For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, **but only faith working through love**.”

John 14:15 “**If you love me**, you will keep my commandments.”

2. Love for each other is how the world will know we are Christ’s followers.

John 13:35 “By this all people will know that you are my disciples, **if you have love for one another**.”

3. Love for God and other believers is the only way we’ll be able to even try to put these “new man” virtues on!

4. Genuine love for each other is the only way we’ll steer clear of legalistic living, and be able to live a fruitful, spirit-filled life.

Gal. 5:22 “But the fruit of the Spirit is **love**...”

Questions for Small Group/Personal Application:

- (1) Similar to a daily shower, is putting off sin and putting on Christ-likeness a normative part of your life? What is God having you put off & put on as of late?
- (2) Which 1-2 of the virtues listed in Col. 3:12ff will you prayerfully focus on “putting on” this week?
- (3) In light of what we looked at today, have your words been helping to promote unity or perhaps cause division among the body of Christ? Explain your answer.
- (4) Col. 3:12-4:1 speaks of many different relationships to which we’re supposed to apply these virtues. Which relationships is God calling you to show love by “putting on” the virtues listed in these passages?