

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Colossians 3:12-14 (NIV)

Fully Clothed

That's what I want. **What's that?** I wanted to be fully clothed with your love. I want to be filled with compassion and kindness. I want to be gentle and patient. I want to live a life of humility. **That's good.** But, I'm not there yet, that is for sure. It is very hard for me to bear with other's weaknesses. It is not easy for me to overlook and let go of grievances. I want to forgive others as you have forgiven me. Above all else, I want to put on love. I want your love to flow through me. I want your love to live in me. I want to be able to live in perfect unity with others. **That's very good.**

So, what are you asking of me? I want to be changed. I want to be different. I want to be like you. I want to live the life you are calling me to live. **That is the most important starting point.** Why is that? **You desire to live the life that I am calling you to live. Not many have that desire. Not many want to be changed. Not many want to be different. Most are living, self-satisfied lives. They see weaknesses in others but none of their own. They hold on to anger and bitter grievances with others. Their lives are filled with disunity of every kind. So, your desire is very good.**

What has your desire to be like me caused you to do? I have drawn near to you in prayer. I have come to rely on you. I have come to be in your presence. I have continued to meet with you in your word. **What has been happening to you as you have drawn near to me? Are you the same person? Can you be in my presence and remain unchanged?** No, I cannot be in your presence and remain unchanged. No, I am not the same person that I was before I started meeting with you. **Are you encouraged or are you discouraged? Are you learning to clothe yourself with my love?** I am encouraged. I know that you are working in my life. You are helping me to fully clothe myself with your love. **Yes, I am. Will you keep on allowing me to change you?** Yes, I will. **That will be very good. Day by day, I will continue to help you to keep on clothing yourself with my love.** Thank you, Lord.

Lord, I want to love and forgive others as you love and forgive me. Help me to be fully clothed with your love. Help me to forgive and set aside every grievance I have with others. Help me to live in perfect unity with others so I can live as your child in this world. Amen

Becoming Like Christ *Bear With Each Other*

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

NIV Colossians 3:12-14

Becoming Like Christ *Make Allowances For Each Other's Faults*

Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony.

NLT Colossians 3:12-14

Becoming Like Christ *Bear With One Another*

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

NRSV Colossians 3:12-14

Becoming Like Christ *Forbearing With One Another*

Clothe yourselves therefore, as God's own chosen ones (His own picked representatives), [who are] purified and holy and well-beloved [by God Himself, by putting on behavior marked by] tenderhearted pity and mercy, kind feeling, a lowly opinion of yourselves, gentle ways, [and] patience [which is tireless and long-suffering, and has the power to endure whatever comes, with good temper]. Be gentle and forbearing with one another and, if one has a difference (a grievance or complaint) against another, readily pardoning each other; even as the Lord has [freely] forgiven you, so must you also [forgive]. And above all these [put on] love and enfold yourselves with the bond of perfectness [which binds everything together completely in ideal harmony].

AMP Colossians 3:12-14

Becoming Like Christ *Bearing With One Another*

So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you. Beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity.

NASB Colossians 3:12-14

Becoming Like Christ *Bearing With One Another*

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, 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. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

ESV Colossians 3:12-14

Becoming Like Christ *Bearing With One Another*

Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; 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. But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.

NKJV Colossians 3:12-14

Becoming Like Christ *Quick To Forgive*

So, chosen by God for this new life of love, dress in the wardrobe God picked out for you: compassion, kindness, humility, quiet strength, discipline. Be even-tempered, content with second place, quick to forgive an offense. Forgive as quickly and completely as the Master forgave you. And regardless of what else you put on, wear love. It's your basic, all-purpose garment. Never be without it.

MSG Colossians 3:12-14

Becoming Like Christ *Be Ready To Suffer Quietly*

Since you have been chosen by God who has given you this new kind of life, and because of his deep love and concern for you, you should practice tenderhearted mercy and kindness to others. Don't worry about making a good impression on them, but be ready to suffer quietly and patiently. Be gentle and ready to forgive; never hold grudges. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. Most of all, let love guide your life, for then the whole church will stay together in perfect harmony.

TLB Colossians 3:12-14

Becoming Like Christ *Get Along With Each Other*

God has chosen you and made you his holy people. He loves you. So always do these things: Show mercy to others, be kind, humble, gentle, and patient. Get along with each other, and forgive each other. If someone does wrong to you, forgive that person because the Lord forgave you. Do all these things; but most important, love each other. Love is what holds you all together in perfect unity.

NCV Colossians 3:12-14

Bear With Each Other

Year _____ Week _____ Day _____ Date _____

Becoming Like Christ – Colossians 3:12-14

In Context: *Read Colossians 3*

Begin With Prayer:

Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.

Meditating On God's Word: ***(What is God speaking to your heart?)***

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Colossians 3:12-14 (NIV)

Considering The Words: ***(What words speak to your heart?)***

Therefore, | as | God's chosen people, | holy | and | dearly loved, | clothe yourselves | with compassion, | kindness, | humility, gentleness | and | patience. | Bear with | each other | and | forgive | whatever grievances | you may | have against | one another. Forgive as | the Lord | forgave you. | And | over all | these virtues | put on | love, | which binds | them all | together | in perfect | unity. Colossians 3:12-14 (NIV)

Praying The Scripture: ***(What prayer from your heart will you write?)***

Lord, I want to love and forgive others as you love and forgive me. Help me to be fully clothed with your love. Help me to forgive and set aside every grievance I have with others. Help me to live in perfect unity with others so I can live as your child in this world. Amen

What It Means: ***(What questions speak to your heart?)*** *(Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)*

How does the Lord want to clothe you so you can love others with His love?

How has the Lord been helping you to properly clothe yourself with His love?

How is being properly clothed with Christ's helping you to live in unity with others?

How is your being clothed with Christ's love helping you to bear with the weaknesses of others?

How has the Lord given you an example of how to love and forgive others that have harmed you?

When have you been able to forgive and set aside a grievance you have had against someone?

How have you both given and received love in spite of many weaknesses in others and in yourself?

Living It Out: ***(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)***

Allow the Lord to clothe you with His love so you will be able to love and bear with the weakness of others.

Seeing It Happen: ***(What are you trusting God for in your heart?)***

Have faith that the Lord will help you to clothe yourself with His love so you will be able to love and forgive others.

Get Ready To Share: ***(What can you share with others from your heart?)***

Share with another person or your small group how the Lord has been clothing you with His love.

Close With Prayer:

Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

Pause And Offer Prayers Of...

With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You

Adoration... _____

Thanksgiving... _____

Confession... _____

Intercession... _____

Petition... _____

Journal

As You Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

What Do You Want To Say To Me Lord?

What Prayers Are You Praying Today?

Prayer Of Blessing

(What Prayer Of Blessing Can You Pray For Another?)

May you allow Christ to clothe you with His love so you will be able to love others.

Prayer To Carry

(What Prayer Would You Like To Carry Throughout Your Day?)

Lord, I will allow you to clothe me with your love so I will be able to love others.

What Do You Want To Remember About Today?

A Question To Ask God

(What Would You Like To Ask God?)

Lord, how will you clothe me with your love today?
