

Sunday, May 16, 2021—Colossians 3:12 Put On The Fruit of the Spirit

Colossians 3:12

- **Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;**
- **Put on therefore**—the expression “put on” is the 6th imperative command that Paul gives in this chapter.
 - Col. 3:1—“seek”
 - Col. 3:2—“set”
 - Col. 3:5—“mortify”
 - Col. 3:8—“put off”
 - Col. 3:9—“lie not”
 - Col. 3:12—“put on”
- The believer is command to “put on therefore” i.e., on the basis of the positional realities laid out in verses 9 through 11 believers are commanded to function in attitudes, actions, and behaviors that are indicative of new man/new creature they have been made in Christ.
- **as the elect of God**—members of the body of Christ are “the elect of God.” The command to “put on” is given in light of the fact that we are “the elect of God.” In the context, how can verse 12 not be referring to the body of Christ?
- **holy and beloved**—are further descriptors of members of the body of Christ. “As the elect of God” we are “holy and beloved.” “Holy” is an adjective. “Beloved” is a verb.
 - Ephesians 1:4—one result of having been “chosen in him” is that we are “holy and without blame before him in love.”
 - Ephesians 1:6—another result of verse 4 is that in Christ we have been made “accepted in the beloved.”
- Colossians 3:12—having “put on the new man” (v. 10) as a member of the body of Christ (v. 11) we are “the elect of God, holy and beloved,” in verse 12.

- **bowels of mercies**—is the first thing that we commanded to “put on” in verse 12. The Greek noun translated “bowels” in verse 12 can carry a variety of different means depending on the context in which it is used.
 - Acts 1:18—in this verse “bowels” is a reference to the internal organs of the human body.
 - II Corinthians 7:15—“inward affection” is related your internal seat of emotions. Where do you feel your emotions? In the stomach or bowels.
 - 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, esp. kindness, benevolence, compassion; hence our heart (tender mercies, affections, etc.)
 - a heart in which mercy resides.
 - Luke 1:78
 - The *Oxford English Dictionary* offers the following relevant definitions for “bowels.”
 - 3.a. (Considered as the seat of the tender and sympathetic emotions, hence): Pity, compassion, feeling, ‘heart’. Chiefly *plural*, and now somewhat *archaic*.
 - Philippians 1:8
 - Philippians 2:1
 - Philemon 1:7, 20
- Colossians 3:12—“bowels of mercy” is an old way of saying have a compassionate heart. Believers are to “put on” a heart that is compassionate to the needs of other people i.e., one anothering.
- **Kindness**—second, we are to “put on” kindness. Consider the definitions of “[kindness](#)” presented in Noah Webster’s *American Dictionary of the English Language*.
 - Galatians 5:22—the Greek word rendered “kindness” in Col. 3:12 is the same word translated “gentleness” in this verse. The command to “put on” kindness is an admonition in walk in the Spirit and manifest the fruit of the Spirit.
 - II Corinthians 6:6
 - Titus 3:4
- **Humbleness of mind**—is related to not thinking of oneself more highly than they ought.

- Romans 12:3
- Acts 20:19
- Ephesians 4:2
- Philippians 2:3
- Colossians 3:12—with in the book of Colossians the “humbles of mind” Paul is speaking about here is contrasted with false religious humility of the Gnostics.
 - Colossians 2:18, 23
- **Meekness**—next we are commanded to “put on” “[meekness](#).”
 - Galatians 5:23—once again “meekness” is part of the fruit of the Spirit.
 - II Corinthians 10:1
 - Ephesians 4:2
 - I Timothy 6:11
 - II Timothy 2:25
 - Titus 3:2
- **Longsuffering**—means “Bearing injuries or provocation for a long time; patient; not easily provoked,” according to Noah Webster’s [American Dictionary of the English Language](#).
 - Galatians 5:22—once again the commend to “put on” “longsuffering” is related to the fruit of the Spirit.
 - Romans 2:4
 - II Corinthians 6:6
 - Ephesians 4:2
 - Colossians 1:11
 - I Timothy 1:16
 - II Timothy 3:10

- II Timothy 4:2