

# **Put on the New**

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I. Introduction. Text: Colossians 3:12-17.

II. The Christian experience is described as putting chosen qualities on and taking off the negative ones.

A. These qualities are reflected by the work and life of Jesus.

B. Every morning these qualities should be put on.

C. We can put these qualities on because we are new persons in Christ.

D. We are to consider ourselves dead in Christ, and we can because God has given us a new basis of operation in Christ. (Romans 6)

III. The qualities to put on.

A. Compassion.

1. This refers to sympathy.

2. It is a heart of pity.

B. Kindness. This is compassion in action.

C. Humility.

1. This is the chief virtue of the Christian.

2. We are to consider others as better than ourselves.

D. Gentleness.

1. This is meekness.

2. This is also strength under control.

3. Meekness is to set aside one's rights for others.

E. Patience.

1. This is the endurance of another's exacerbating conduct.

2. It is holding oneself back.

F. Forbearance. This is to uphold one another.

G. Forgiveness.

1. We are to forgive as the Lord forgave us.
2. This does not mean we are never to speak of a grievance.
3. Having spoken the grievance we must let it go.
4. Forgiveness means...
  - a. We are not to bring the wrong up again.
  - b. We are not to tell others.
  - c. We do not remind ourselves of the matter.

H. All these qualities are to be wrapped in love.

1. Love is over everything else.
2. This is the quality of feeling loving towards others because one is a new person.
3. The basis for all of this is that believers are God's people loved and chosen to be holy.
  - a. However, God still has a plan for the Jewish people—the church has all the spiritual blessings. (Romans 11)
  - b. Christians are expected to be different because they are different.
  - c. God loves us deeply. It is amazing to be loved by God.

IV. The qualities of the church functioning together.

A. Peace.

1. Peace ruling means that peace makes decisions.
2. The church is to be in control.

B. Praise.

1. Christians are to have an attitude of gratitude.
2. They are to have this attitude because they know they do not deserve anything.

C. Precepts.

1. The Word is to be well known and the center of our lives.
2. The whole body is to be involved in sharing the Word to one another.
3. The truth that comes from the Word is alive and illuminating.

4. The ministry of music is linked with the sharing of the Word. As we sing we minister to each other.

V. The whole of life is to be related to the Lordship of Jesus.

**Application questions:**

1. Which of the qualities do you find the most difficult to attain? Explain.

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2. Which of the qualities do you find the most pleasant? Why?

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3. Why is the Word so central to the functioning of the church? What are some creative ways that believers can share the Word individually with each other?

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