

Wednesday Sept 11, 2024 – Bible Study

Colossians 3:12 (ESV) - Colossians 3:12 English Standard Version 12 **Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience...**

What is Paul telling us?

Colossians 3:12 calls us to embody virtues that reflect the character of Christ. As God's chosen, holy, and dearly loved people, we are invited to clothe ourselves in qualities that build up others and honor God:

- **Compassion** urges us to engage deeply with others' struggles, showing empathy and taking action to help.
- **Kindness** invites us to be intentional in our actions and words, ensuring they are generous and uplifting.
- **Humility** challenges us to adopt a posture of serving rather than seeking to be served, fostering a spirit of cooperation and understanding.
- **Gentleness** encourages us to approach every interaction with a soft and considerate attitude, even when faced with opposition.
- **Patience** equips us to handle life's challenges and interpersonal conflicts with a calm and enduring spirit.

Detailed look: Study vs. Reading the Bible

“Dearly Loved” (ἀγάπη, agapē):

Meaning: This term for love is unconditional and sacrificial. It describes the profound, selfless love that God has for us, which is the foundation of our relationship with Him.

Application: Knowing we are dearly loved by God should inspire us to love others with the same depth and sincerity. It's a reminder that our actions towards others should reflect the love God has shown us.

“Compassion” (σπλάγχνα, splanchna):

Meaning: This word literally means "bowels" or "inward parts," reflecting the deep, visceral nature of compassion. It's an empathy that comes from the depths of one's being.

Application: Compassion involves more than sympathy; it's a heartfelt response that moves us to act. It calls us to engage with others' suffering and to be motivated to alleviate their pain.

“Kindness” (χρηστότης, chrēstotēs):

Meaning: Kindness refers to benevolence and moral goodness. It’s an attribute that manifests in actions of grace and care towards others.

Application: Kindness should be a defining characteristic of our interactions. It involves being considerate and generous, actively seeking the good of others.

“Humility” (ταπεινοφροσύνη, tapeinophrosynē):

Meaning: Humility here indicates a modest view of oneself, recognizing one’s own limitations and valuing others above oneself.

Application: Humility involves relinquishing pride and acknowledging our dependence on God. It encourages us to serve others selflessly and to foster genuine relationships.

“Gentleness” (πραΰτης, prautēs):

Meaning: Gentleness refers to a disposition of calmness and mildness, often associated with strength under control. It’s the quality of being considerate and non-threatening.

Application: Practicing gentleness means responding to others with a soft and considerate demeanor, even in difficult situations. It’s about maintaining composure and showing respect.

“Patience” (μακροθυμία, makrothymia):

Meaning: Patience describes a long-suffering attitude, the ability to endure difficult situations and people without giving way to frustration or anger.

Application: Patience is crucial in relationships and daily interactions. It allows us to persevere through trials and to respond to others with grace, reflecting God’s own patience with us.

Final thought:

- Greek, particularly Koine Greek (the common dialect of the time), offered a rich vocabulary and flexibility in expression. This was valuable for theological discussions and the precise communication of complex ideas.
- Greek was spoken by a diverse population across the Eastern Mediterranean and Asia Minor, making it an effective language for reaching a broad audience. It was the language of education, trade, and communication in the region.
- So, in summary, the proper way to study the Bible is to prayerfully and humbly rely on the Holy Spirit to give us understanding; study verses in their context, recognizing that the Bible explains itself; and respect the efforts of other Christians, past and present, who have also sought to properly study the Bible. Remember, [God is the author of the Bible](#), and He wants us to understand it.
- <https://www.gotquestions.org/study-the-Bible.html>