

- I) V12-13 INTRO: Therefore as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness,
 - a) PAUL: Has given a command to the church that applies to us today
 - 1) He has instructed the church to forsake sins of the flesh and to live proper lives

- II) KEY: We do this, because we are alive in Jesus, walk by faith, and anticipate being with Him
 - a) We look forward to being in heaven, with Him
 - 1) Phil 3:20 Our citizenship is in heaven from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself

- III) V12 THEREFORE: As the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility
 - a) He had just commanded believers to put to death, and to put off certain behaviors
 - 1) AFTER PUTTING OFF: We now are commanded to *put on*

- IV) THIS: Is where many modern believers have great struggles
 - a) Many want to be authentic, living completely centered and integrated with their own values and beliefs; being real and honest about how they truly feel about their own life and views
 - 1) With this as their motivation, for them it is important to "be real" to avoid hypocrisy

- V) THE RESULT: They end up doing whatever it may be that *feels* best for them
 - a) If they *want* to do something, they will; if they feel something deeply, it must be true
 - 1) Their moral foundation is built on being "real", being their true self
 - 2) QUOTE: Don't be yourself---be someone a little nicer!

- VI) KEY: Their moral code is developed by what makes them feel most comfortable, and this is how they live
 - a) MANY SAY: If it doesn't feel right, then why do it? Isn't that hypocrisy?
 - 1) KEY: I am not a *hypocrite* when I do the right thing even without wanting to
 - 2) Hypocrisy is when I profess a *belief* that is intentionally inconsistent with the way *I really am*

- VII) HERE: Paul describes the behavior and attitude that God expects of every believer
 - a) HIS POINT: Since you are the elect of God, this is how you are to live
 - 1) FACT: It doesn't matter how you feel about it, this is what you are to live like!

- VIII) I HAVE LEARNED: That doing the right thing even when I don't feel like it changes *how I feel* about it
 - a) KEY: You can actually change the way you feel and think by changing the way you act
 - 1) Making a decision to do the right thing because it is the right thing transforms you

- IX) QUESTION: Since all things have become new, how do brand new people actually live?
 - a) What kind of life earmarks a genuine Christian who understands how loved they are by God?
 - 1) If we have put off sinful things, what do we now replace them with?

- IX) V12 PAUL SAYS: As the elect of God, holy and beloved put on *tender mercies*
 - a) We have been saved, are now considered holy, and are objects of God's affection
 - 1) IN LIGHT OF THIS: Some things have been removed, and now it is time to get dressed
 - 2) Just as it is a decision to remove the old ways, it is a decision to put on new ways
 - 3) We dress for certain things: Work, sports, going out, church, baptisms, weddings
 - 4) AS BELIEVERS: We also dress in a certain way

- I) **FIRST:** We are to put on tender mercies (literally compassion, or co-suffering)
 - a) Compassion is a sympathetic consciousness of other's pain, and a desire to alleviate it
 - 1) Instead of anger, wrath, and malice we now express compassionate concern for others
 - 2) This insures good marriages, homes, friendships, and churches

- II) **THIS IS ILLUSTRATED:** In Jesus' story of the Good Samaritan (Lu 10:30-37)
 - a) A traveler was on his way to Jericho, and was assaulted and robbed
 - 1) As he lay wounded on the road, a priest and Levite passed by without giving him aid
 - 2) A Samaritan saw him, bandaged his wounds, took him to an inn, and paid for his room and needs
 - 3) Lu 10:33 Tells us what motivated such action: *He had compassion* and so should we

- III) **SECOND:** As believers, we put on *kindness* (which keeps us from the sins listed in V5)
 - a) Kindness is moral excellence; goodness; gentleness; warmhearted; considerate
 - 1) This is goodness in action, and is the fruit of the Spirit in our lives (Gal 5:22)
 - 2) 1 Co 13:4 Love is kind
 - 3) Mk 10:13-15 They brought little children to Him, that He might touch them; but the disciples rebuked those who brought *them*. But when Jesus saw *it*, He was greatly displeased and said to them, "Let the little children come to Me, and *do not forbid* them; for of such is the kingdom of God. Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it."

- IV) **THIRD:** Put on humility (Modesty, lowliness of mind) an honest self-assessment
 - a) Humility is the antidote for self-love, as it helps us to see ourselves for what we really are
 - 1) This enables us to resist seeking vengeance and awakens us of our need for forgiveness
 - 2) Lu 6:29 To him who strikes you on the *one* cheek, offer the other also.
 - 3) Pr 22:4 By humility and the fear of the LORD are riches and honor and life.

- V) **FOURTH:** Meekness: Is the opposite of rudeness, and self-seeking
 - a) Meekness is the willingness to suffer insult without desiring to respond in kind
 - 1) 1 Pe 2:20-23 What credit is it if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently? But when you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently, this is commendable before God. For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth"; who, when He was reviled, *did not revile in return*; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously
 - 2) 1 Co. 13:5 (Love) is not rude, it is not self-seeking...

- VI) **FIFTH:** Put on Long suffering, also can be called patience
 - a) This was shown to us in how the Lord put up so long with us, to save us
 - 1) Ps 130:3 If You, LORD, should mark (note, collect) iniquities, O Lord, *who could stand?*

- VII) **V13 SIXTH:** Bearing with one another (Putting up with each other)
 - a) This is the opposite of quick anger, or revenge! It is resisting the urge to get even, now!
 - 1) 2 Pe 3:15 And consider *that* the longsuffering of our Lord *is* salvation

- VIII) **SEVENTH:** Forgiving one another (releasing people from a debt they owe)
 - a) Mt. 6:12 Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.
 - 1) Key: Occurs when forgiveness is requested by someone
 - 2) Do not harbor grudge, be ready to grant grace to those who ask and are in need of it

- I) **V14 BUT:** Above all these things *put on love*, which is the bond of perfection

- a) This is the source that enables all of these other commands to be kept
 - 1) Ro 13:9-10 The commandments, "Do not commit adultery," "Do not murder," "Do not steal," "Do not covet," and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: "Love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.
 - 2) It is not simply an emotion, but a decision of the will

- II) V15 **LET THE PEACE OF GOD RULE:** And be thankful
 - a) Let God's peace rule in your midst, in the church, and as a church, be thankful
 - 1) A DECISION: We can quench the peace of God, through division and dissension

- III) V16 **LET:** The word of Christ *dwelt in you richly* in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one
 - a) The doctrine of Christ should be their constant study of the church, not just individuals
 - 1) It should be frequently preached, explained, and enforced among them

- IV) **WHEN GOD'S WORD:** Is richly present and the people are well taught, then the church will be healthy
 - a) It will be centered on the things that matter
 - 1) It will be strong when the latest movement, fear, or doctrine encroaches on their lives

- V) **BECAUSE:** Of their healthy love for God and one another the people will encourage one another
 - a) The people will be capable of teaching and warning one another, keeping each other in line
 - 1) Ro 15:14 Now I myself am confident concerning you, my brethren, that you also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another.

- VI) V17 **AND:** Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus giving thanks
 - a) The result: You life will be centered on Jesus and you will become thankful
 - 1) Heb 13:15 Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of *our lips*, giving thanks to His name.