

10-13-13

Scripture:

Title: Our New Clothes

*Can't tell you how much we enjoyed the summer, the beauty  
And now the fall, the colors that we've never seen before  
Colorado has yellow trees, never seen the reds and oranges  
Covered Road, Tuovila's "back yard," Copper Harbor...  
Keep wondering – what will it look like w/o out leaves  
Actually had lunch on our deck the other day  
Commented how fun it is to be able to see buildings of downtown  
Old buildings, cool looking buildings  
It seemed like I was seeing them for the first time  
Realized – leaves on neighbors trees were gone  
Hadn't be able to see them until now ☺  
As leaves fall will always be a few hanging on until spring  
After new leaves come on have you ever seen any old ones left on  
the tree – the new life pushes out all of the old  
The trees have their new clothes the old is swallowed up, taken  
away by the new life  
That is a picture of us  
The more we grow, the more of our new life we realize  
The more the old is pushed out, loses its power  
The rising "sap" of eternal life pushes out the old...  
Put off the old, realize it is gone and dead  
Put on the new, learn to live and walk in new life*

## No distinctions

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### **Colossians 3:11**

*I've heard some about the old church buildings here in Calumet –  
up to 30 at one time  
Many churches connected with nationality  
St. Joseph's (now St. Paul's) Catholic Church – Slovenian  
St. Anthony's Catholic Church – Polish  
St. Mary's for Italians  
St. Anne's for French Canadians  
Sacred Heart Parish  
Total of 6 catholic churches*

*Eventually 3 Lutheran, ours being one of the buildings  
These were predominantly for the Finnish  
Also Swedish and Norwegian Lutheran churches  
And Swedish, Norwegian and Cornish Methodist churches  
Each country was separated from the other  
One country couldn't/didn't worship with another  
Now, perhaps there were language barriers, different service in a  
different language  
According to this verse...  
All nationality differences are broken down*

In Colossi it might have been

The Greek church

The Jewish church

The circumcised and the uncircumcised church

The barbarian church

The Scythian church

Also the slave church and the free church

Separation by nationality should not exist

In Jesus, who is our head there is no distinction

No one better, no one worse than another

A fellowship of all these different people would have been  
impossible in this day except for God's grace

Jesus demolished the cultural barriers that separated them

Scythians were the worst kind of barbarians and did bad things...

Imagine going to a church that had a slave as an elder

You're a free man and a slave gets up and teaches you...

This new man, new creation, new person

This believer is

Neither Greek or Jew

Finnish or Cornish, Slovenian or Swedish

Circumcised or uncircumcised

Barbarian, Scythian, slave or freeman

We are all made new in Christ

What really matters is the new creation

The new man, the rebirth  
When we repent and trust in Jesus, He comes and lives inside us  
He erases all the differences

Slave or free

The one who was a slave by faith is free

The one who is free in Jesus they are a slave

**Galatians 3:28**

## Chosen, holy and beloved

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**Colossians 3:12**

Put off evil desires, idolatry

Put off anger, speaking evil of others

Put off division, put on new life

Put on what is consistent with your new identity

Put on what is fitting for the elect, the holy, the  
beloved people of God

We have been resurrected with Jesus

We have been forgiven...

Therefore we should be compassionate, kind, humble, gentle and  
patient...

B/c we are new creations in the Messiah

Because we have been forgiven so much

B/c of the amazing works God has done in our lives

We should be...

- *...those who have been chosen by God*

The elect of God

**John 15:16** – *you did not choose Me...*

The basis for these “new” actions

Is our relationship w/ God

All who are identified by Jesus’ death on the cross  
and His resurrection

We are now His people, we are new people

**Romans 9:25-26**

This is OT language – the chosen nation of Israel  
Now it is applied to believers, including Gentiles  
Neither Jew nor Greek, circumcised or uncircumcised

- ...*holy and beloved*

The chosen by God are holy and beloved

*Holy* – God has set us apart as His people for His purpose

When we act like the world we violate the purpose of His calling

God's love is not dependent on our response

We are the objects of God's affection

And, b/c of His love we need to love others

## Put on new life

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We have previously had “vice” lists

Now we have a list of virtues

Put off the vices

Put on the virtues

Be enveloped in, surrounded by

***Put on a heart of compassion*** – bowels of mercies

Bowels believed to be seat of the emotions

Now we say the heart is the seat of emotion

Heart of compassion

Deep, gut level feeling of compassion

We are to imitate God and be merciful and compassionate

Shouldn't be indifferent to the suffering of others

Be concerned for people's needs...

***Put on kindness*** – often used for God's mercy toward His people

Grace that encompasses the whole person

Mellowing harshness

Jesus said – My yoke is easy, My burden is light...

It is His kindness that leads us to repentance

Reading through the gospels

Many times read – Jesus' compassion for the people

Like sheep w/o a shepherd

He saw them hungry – fed them

He saw their sickness – healed them

He saw their bondage – freed them

We are to live out the kindness we have experienced from God

***Put on humility*** – posture of submission, submission to Jesus as Lord – not self-centered

Humility is the antidote for selfishness

Negative connotation in Greek

Christians elevated this to a virtue

Jesus is our ultimate example

**Philippians 2:8**

We are to exhibit true humility

Not false humility

***Put on gentleness***, or meekness – being humble and gentle

Opposite of acting in anger

Opposite of earlier lists

This doesn't mean spineless or weak, not a doormat

Rather, willingness to suffer injury instead of inflicting it

Willing to suffer injury – not inflict it

If someone has to lose, it is going to be me

Knowing, realizing you are a sinner, living among sinners

Willing to suffer burdens of others' sin imposed on them

Can only come by the Holy Spirit

Should always be a mark of our behavior

Even in restoration of someone who has sinned

Even when defending the faith against attack of unbelievers

***Put on patience*** – God was patient w/ us, therefore...

**Romans 9:22**

God is patient w/ His people

We should be patient w/ those around us

When we are patient we don't get angry

Even when they're being foolish or unteachable...  
Even when they insult us

Opposite is resentment and revenge

I'll get you...

If God were not patient w/ us

None of us would ever be saved

### ***Put on forgiveness and forbearance***

#### **Colossians 3:13**

When we are being compassionate, kind, humble, gentle and patient...

When we have put on compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience...

When we have put off anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive speech from our mouths

We will be able to

Bear with each other

Forgive each other

If we put off...

If we put on...

Then we will...

Forgive, bear with

- *Bearing with one another*

Bearing has the idea of tolerance or endurance

Closely related to patience

Hold out in spite of persecution, threats, injury, indifference, complaints – not retaliating, enduring

Corinthians in trouble for taking each other to court

Better to be wronged

Thessalonians praised for enduring persecutions and afflictions

- *Forgiving each other*

Forgiving – actively accepting those who have wronged you

Involves compassion, kindness, humility and meekness

Literally means to be gracious

As a body we are to be a gracious, mutually forgiving fellowship

# Following our Leader

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Following our Model, for all virtues...

## **Colossians 3:13b**

*...just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.*

When we repent we are forgiven

Totally and completely

Undeserved, still given

No strings attached forgiveness

As far as the east is from the west...

Thrown into the depths of the sea...

His forgiveness is genuine

It is not dependent on whether we deserve it or not

It is freely given

Forgiveness is part of our new life

Part of our “new” clothes that we are to put on

We are to be imitators of the Lord Jesus

He has forgiven us much

Forgiven all our sins – thrown into the depths of the sea

Jesus told a parable regarding this...

## **Matthew 18:21-35**

Recap – 2 servants one forgiven much doesn't forgive one who owed little...

*There's a story about a traveler making his way with a guide through the jungles of Burma. They came to a shallow but wide river and waded through it to the other side. When the traveler came out of the river, numerous leeches had attached to his torso and legs. His first instinct was to grab them and pull them off.*

*This guide stopped him, warning that pulling the leeches off would only leave tiny pieces of them under the skin. Eventually, infection would set in.*

*The best way to rid the body of the leeches, the guide advised, was to bathe in a warm balsam bath for several minutes. This*

would soak the leeches, and soon they would release their hold on the man's body.

*When we've been significantly injured by another person, we cannot simply yank the injury from ourselves and expect that all bitterness, malice, and emotion will be gone. Resentment still hides under the surface.*

*The only way to become truly free of the offense and to forgive others is to bathe in the soothing bath of God's forgiveness. When we finally fathom the extent of God's love in Jesus Christ, forgiveness of others is a natural outflow. The bitterness, the hurt falls away*

God's forgiveness of us...

Is the basis for our forgiveness of others...

## Love above all

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### **Colossians 3:14**

Beyond all these things, above all these things, in addition to all these...

More important than anything else...

Love is to be the belt, the sash that pulls all together

It is our most important quality

It is the glue that produces our unity

W/o love we can do none of the rest

Love is the fulfillment of the law

Faith, hope and love – the greatest is love

Showing love gives evidence of God's grace at work in our lives

Don't mix this up

Showing love doesn't bring God's grace

Showing love comes as a result of God's grace

Showing gratitude for what God has done for us

- ...*perfect bond of unity*

Bond of perfection

As we hold fast to our Head, to Jesus  
We are united together

**Colossians 2:19**

Put in negative

Switch to positive

When we hold fast to the Head  
He is our supply  
He holds us together  
He grows us together

**Conclusion:**

Have we put on our new clothes?

Repentance and trust...

Is compassion a characteristic of our lives?

Are we humble, truly humble?

Could your life be characterized as meek? Not milk-toast...willing  
to suffer than let someone else suffer

How are you doing w/ kindness – are you looking for the other's  
good instead of your own?

Then of course there is patience, forgiveness, bearing w/...

This is our new self

The new self-created in Jesus our Savior...

We are new creations

We have a new set of clothes

Are we wearing them?

Are we growing in knowledge so we are putting them on?

Putting on the new man is really putting on the Lord Jesus

Living as He lived

Being changed into His image

As Sara sings our final song...

Benediction:

**Ephesians 5:1-2**

*Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; 2 and walk in  
love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an  
offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.*

Sermon outline

10-13-13

Colossians 3:11-14

No d \_\_\_\_\_

C \_\_\_\_\_, h \_\_\_\_\_ and b \_\_\_\_\_

Put on new l \_\_\_\_\_

Following our L \_\_\_\_\_

L \_\_\_\_\_ above all