

LOVE CLOTHES

—CHRISTUS VICTOR WEEK 20—

Colossians 3:12-14 (NIV)

I. _____ IN _____

¹² Therefore, as God's chosen people,
holy and dearly loved,

II. _____ LIKE _____

clothe yourselves with

**compassion,
kindness,
humility,
gentleness
and patience.**

III. _____ LIKE _____

¹³ **Bear with each other**

and forgive one another

if any of you has a grievance against someone.

Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

IV. _____ LIKE _____

¹⁴ **And over all these virtues put on love,**

which binds them all together in perfect unity.

THE BOTTOM LINE(S)

_____ to _____ your _____
with a disciplined _____ on what is _____ in Christ.
...by memorizing Colossians 3:12.
...by spending 5 minutes a day this week mediating on it.

Then allow your changed _____ to change your _____,
_____ all these _____, culminating in _____.
...by (optional) continuing to memorize Colossians 3:1-11
...by (optional) memorizing Colossians 3:12-14
...by selecting one of these virtues to "put on" this week:

Suggestions:

1. Pray daily that the Holy Spirit will help bring this forth in you.
2. Confess to God and another Christian your past failures.
3. Remember that changed action flows from changed thinking; focus on your identity in Christ. How does this virtue match your status as someone who is chosen, holy, and loved?
4. Meditate on how you are actually imitating Jesus in this virtue.
5. Make a list of how this virtue helps you be the kind of person you want to be. Make a list of how this virtue's opposite hurts you and those around you.
6. Confess your failures daily. Refocus on the truth of you in Christ.
7. Think long-term; where do you want to be in six months?

Two Models of Forgiveness

Internal Model of Forgiveness

1. Forgiveness is primarily inside us, our inward giving up of anger and the right to get back at the offender.
2. Forgiveness is unconditional and is to be done for all offenders.
3. Reconciliation with the offender, however, is conditional and depends upon their repentance.
4. Some consequences may remain.

External Model of Forgiveness

1. Forgiveness is primarily outside us, and is focused on reconciliation with the offender. Forgiveness necessarily includes an actual restoration of the relationship.
2. An attitude of grace and mercy is unconditional, and the possibility of forgiveness is extended to all.
3. Forgiveness itself is conditional and is only possible with offenders who repent.
4. Some consequences may remain.