**Series:** Colossians: The Supremacy of Christ **Sermon:** What Does it Mean To "Put On" Christ?

Scripture: Colossians 3:12-17

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## Colossians 3:12-17 (ESV)

*Main Idea*: By the power of the Holy Spirit, followers of Christ are to put on the wardrobe of Christlikeness. This is true for the individual AND the collective body of Christ, evidenced both internally and externally.

## I. What (is in the Wardrobe) (Col. 3:12-14)

"We are in process, and ultimately we will be masterpieces, though it may be difficult to perceive it now. We are not yet what we are going to be; and we need to bear with one another as the process goes on." (R. Kent Hughes, Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon, p. 313)

- a. Compassionate hearts
- b. <u>Kindness</u>
- c. <u>Humility</u>
- d. Meekness
- e. Patience
- f. <u>Love</u> 1 Corinthians 13:13 (ESV) "So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love."

Sanctification is the work of God's free grace, whereby we are renewed in the whole man after the image of God, and are enabled more and more to die unto sin, and live unto righteousness. (Westminster Shorter Catechism, Q. 35)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

## II. Why (this Wardrobe)

(Col. 3:1-4, 12, 15-17)

"One other fact about this wardrobe: all these garments can be worn only in community with others, in relationships. How tempting to think that these garments would be so much easier to wear if we did not have to wear them among people. How much easier to think about compassion than to do it. How much easier to be kind when we are away from mean people. It would be far easier to put on humility and meekness if we were not being jostled by the proud and assertive. How much easier patience is in isolation. But that is not the way it works! Christians become better Christians in community..."

(R. Kent Hughes, Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon, p. 312)

- a. A word on:
  - i. <u>Unity</u>
  - ii. Thankfulness

"Our situation is never so desperate that it is not fitting to give thanks to God." (Jerry Bridges, The Practice of Godliness, p.100)

III. How (do we "style" this Wardrobe)