

Sermon Series: Pursuing Godliness

Sermon Title: “Clothing Ourselves with Compassion, Kindness and Gentleness”,
Colossians 3:12

April 28, 2019

Today’s Scripture: Colossians 3:12 Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, (ESV)

Introduction: The story of Matthew Charles and his release under the “First Step Act”. His gratitude for early release will automatically cause him to want to be a law-abiding citizen. He will probably also vote for Trump in 2020.

Main point: As super-blessed people, our gratitude should be displayed by having a desire to please God by acting like Him in every way we can.

1. Why do we want to be godly?

- Many Christians work at living a godly life so that they earn the admiration of other people.
- Other Christians work at living a godly life for the benefits they think are theirs for doing so.
- Others work at it to feel good about themselves and make it a matter of pride.
- Other Christians work at living a godly life because they are fearful that God will be upset and show his displeasure in various ways.
- The only effective reason to live a godly life is to do it because we love God and desire to enjoy His presence. The Great Commandment hints at this when it says that the whole law is summed up in the commandment to love. You can stop from killing somebody without love, but you can’t be kind to your enemy without love.
- This attitude of gratitude is the natural result of being one of the “chosen”. Paul said “As chosen ones, do this. . .
 - Being chosen has nothing to do with you, therefore pride is an obnoxious attitude among believers.
 - Being chosen is not always obvious. There are no markings on a body to know who is and who isn’t, and one does not know when in life the Spirit will bring a person to true repentance.
 - But, anyone who desires to be saved is chosen. The desire is a sign the Holy Spirit is at work. No one will ever stand before the throne of God and say I wanted to be saved but you wouldn’t let me because you did not choose me. *Romans 10:12–13 [12] For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. [13] For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” (ESV)*

2. How is it possible to be godly?

- If we depend on willpower alone we will fail. I joked on a Thursday night to our Gospel Community how hard it is to say no to China Buffet’s buffets or Pizza Ranch’s all you can eat. If this is your dopamine addiction, try fighting this by doing it in Christ’s power. *Philippians*

4:12–13 *I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. [13] I can do all things through him who strengthens me. (ESV)*

- Simple routines help me to remain connected to Jesus on a daily basis. 1) The Lord's prayer asking for help with temptation. 2) Requesting the filling of the Spirit and his empowerment to fight the battle. 3) Pics of my family that God has blessed me with – gratitude and fear of disappointing them works to keep my mind on Jesus.

3. Which godly traits are needed most?

- That depends on you. Start with the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22-23.
 - Are you self-centered? - Love.
 - Are you a complainer? – Joy
 - Are you a worrier? – Peace
 - Are you frustrated with slow drivers? – Patience
 - Are you callous towards the needs of others? – Kindness
 - Are you inclined to take shortcuts on taxes or frequently use white lies?- Goodness (integrity)
 - Are you a promise breaker or always late – Faithfulness
 - Are you prideful? Prautes Gentleness
 - Are you a spontaneous spender? – Self-control

4. When will I know I've mastered a trait and can start working on others? When you do it automatically without thinking.

- The word "put on" is an aorist meaning at a point in time, get this done. It does not mean continually be putting on. That means although we never arrive, there is a place where we can say, I need to focus now on another trait.
- If pride is your sin and you expect to be served rather than to serve, and you pray and look for ways to serve and all of a sudden after fellowship lunches you jump up without thinking and grab a vacuum cleaner or dish rag and start serving you can put that one to the rear and start working on the next.

5. For most of us, humility is the first item of spiritual clothing needed.

- The Greek word here for humility means to have a deep sense of one's moral littleness. There are not various kinds of Christian categories that put people into different classes. In other words the person who came from a Christian home, went to Sunday School all their life, obeyed their parents 99.9% of the time, went to private school and Christian college and prayed to receive Jesus at age 5 is no different morally than the druggie who has been married 5 times and has had intimate encounters too numerous to count.
- We can see Jesus' humility in how he received the worst of sinners. Prostitutes, tax collectors and demoniacs were welcomed into his inner circle. Truly amazing! *Luke 8:1–3 [1] Soon afterward he went on through cities and villages, proclaiming and bringing the good news of the kingdom of God. And the twelve were with him, [2] and also some women who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities: Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, [3] and Joanna, the wife of Chuza, Herod's*

household manager, and Susanna, and many others, who provided for them out of their means. (ESV)

Application

1. You know you need to work on humility if most of your conversation is about you.
2. You know you need to work on humility if you checked out of this sermon 20 minutes ago.