

LIVING THE CHRISTLIFE
WAYNE BARRETT
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“Put on then...”
Colossians 3:12-17

¹² Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, ¹³ 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. ¹⁴ And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ 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.

— Colossians 3:12-17 (ESV)

v 12 - Put on then...

Paul has just written about what need to be put off.
Here is what we are to put on—as in clothing.

As God's chosen ones (elect)

cf how we would identify each day if we were chosen to serve on a select governmental agency or an advisory board for a well-known executive

How much joy do we take in knowing that we have been chosen by God to be joint heirs with Christ?

holy and beloved—we are set apart by God for Himself, and “having been loved” by Him

hearts of compassion

first thing mentioned—hearts

kindness

Are you kind?

humility

means putting the needs and concerns of others before your own

It does not mean having a bad opinion of oneself—Christ was humble

meekness

does not mean shy, it means strength under control; restraint and gentleness

patience

means waiting for God to act in His time, and knowing that He will

what we call being “patient” with others probably is more related to kindness and forbearance

bearing with one another

putting up with each other (ETV—East Texas Version)

if one has a complaint

this means a justified complaint

forgive—followed by a warning as this teaching so often is, initially by Jesus

you must forgive

and above all these...love

cf 1 Corinthians 13

All the law is contained in love

Which is the bond of perfection/completion

v 15 – A declarative statement... a pronouncement
And the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.
Similar to “Grace and peace to you...”
It is not a matter of trying but of trusting (from Corrie ten Boom)
It is Christ’s peace, not ours.

To which indeed you were called
So Paul does not just mean inner peace, but peace with one another!

And be thankful
which is directly related to peace

v 16 – another declaration: The word of Christ dwell in you richly!
Be it so!
And this will be the outflow of that:

In all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs
Some major purposes of church music are teaching and admonishing
Congregational singing is enjoined by Scripture
Paul naturally thought of three categories of congregation song: psalms, hymns, and
spiritual songs

In grace singing in your hearts to God
Singing is also unto the Lord
It is to be from the heart
Singing unto the Lord is a gift from God Himself—a grace