



You Are, Now Be

Colossians 3.12-14

Main Idea

You are chosen by God's grace, set apart for God's glory, and immersed in God's love, not put on his character that you might display him to a watching world. You are God's children, now at last like it.

Overview

I. You Are – Who Christians Are

- Chosen
 - Christians are those who have been chosen by God's grace
 - There's nothing we can do to earn God's favor
- Holy
 - God chooses us to be holy, "set apart"
 - Christians are those who have been set apart for God's glory
 - In the negative sense, Christians are set apart from sin; in the positive sense, Christians are set apart for godliness
- Beloved
 - God does not choose us just to have to begrudgingly put up with us
 - Christians are objects of God's divine affection

II. Now Be – What Christians Should Be

- Three Inward Attitudes that lead to three Outward Actions
 - Compassion (attitude) leads to Kindness (action)
 - Humility (attitude) leads to Meekness (action)
 - Patience (attitude) leads to Forbearance & Forgiveness (action)
- Love, the core of God's character holds all these qualities together in perfect harmony
- Love knits the character of God together, and in doing so the church of God together as she reflects his character

Questions

Discussion Starter: Why do we so often read passages like Colossians 3:5-14 and look at it only from a moralistic standpoint? What's the danger in doing that?

1. Read Colossians 3:1-17. In verse 12, Paul describes Christians as (1) Chosen; (2) Holy; (3) Beloved. What do each of these mean and how do they shape your understanding of pursuing obedience?
2. In verse 12 we are called to "put on" compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. What do each of these mean? Why is it important to understand these are not isolated qualities, but are connected to one another?

3. In verse 13 we are called to “forbear” with one another. What does this mean? What is the danger when we do not forbear?
4. In verse 13 we are also called to forgive. What is NOT forgiveness? What is forgiveness (look at how the verse describes it)? What do we say about God when we harbor bitterness rather than forgiving? Why is bitterness so damaging to our soul?
5. Read verse 14. Why does love bind all these things together? And how do we put on that love (cf. 1 John 4:8-10; Rm. 5:5)
6. How do these qualities help us hope in heaven?

Accountability Question: Who is God calling you to bear with or forgive? Or to ask forgiveness from?