

LIVE STRONG . . . REPRESENT JESUS

Colossians 3:12-17

- *"Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like Him. In this new life, it doesn't matter if you are a Jew or a Gentile, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbaric, uncivilized, slave, or free, Christ is all that matters, and He lives in all of us."* (Colossians 3:10-11)
- **One of our primary purposes in life is to become like Jesus Christ in our ambitions, attitudes and actions (Romans 8:28-29, Ephesians 4:13-15).**
- **God is far more concerned about our character development (our Christ-likeness) than He is about our career or our comfort.**
- ***What would need to change about me for me to become "Christ-like"?***
- **We develop a godly character by overcoming our struggles with sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires, greed, idolatry, anger, rage, malicious behavior, slander, dirty language and lying (Colossians 3:5-11).**
- *"Since God chose you to be the holy people He loves, you must clothe yourselves with . . ."* (Colossians 3:12)
- ***What else does it take to become one of "God's holy people"?***

Becoming God's Holy People Involves:

DEVELOPING CHRIST-LIKE CHARACTERISTICS

- *"Since God chose you to be the holy people He loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. . . . Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony."* (Colossians 3:12-14)
- **Godly Christians are focused on developing positive qualities as well as getting rid of negative qualities.**
- **Godly individuals "clothe" themselves with *Mercy*.**

    - **Mercy is a willingness to be empathetic towards others in our attitudes and actions.**
    - *"This is what He (the Lord) requires: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God."* (Micah 6:8)
- **Godly individuals "clothe" themselves with *Kindness*.**
    - **Kindness is a willingness to be useful, helpful and good to others.**
    - *"The fruit of the Spirit is . . . kindness . . ."* (Galatians 5:22)
- **Godly individuals "clothe" their lives with *Humility.***
    - **Humility is an attitude that sees others as important, and views our accomplishments and failures from God's perspective.**
    - **Humble individuals: 1) resist the compulsion to continually talk about themselves, 2) are willing to give others credit for successes, 3) refuse to hold on to their rights, 4) resist the need to always be right, and 5) don't continually seek the approval of others.**
    - *"All of you, dress yourselves in humility as you relate to one another, for 'God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.'"* (1 Peter 5:5**)**
- **Godly individuals "clothe" themselves with *Gentleness*.**
    - **Gentleness is a willingness to encourage and be considerate of others.**
    - *"Let everyone see that you are considerate in all you do."* (Philippians 4:5)
- **Godly individuals "clothe" themselves with *Patience*.**
    - **Patience is a willingness to endure the mistakes or wrongs of others.**
    - *"We also pray that you will be strengthened with all his glorious power so you will have all the endurance and patience you need."* (Colossians 1:11)
- **Godly individuals "clothe" themselves with *Forgiveness*.**
    - **Forgiveness is a willingness to let go of our offenses with others.**
    - *"Be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you."* (Ephesians 4:32)
- **Godly individuals "clothe" themselves with *Love*.**
    - *"Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. Love does not demand its own way. Love is not irritable, and it keeps no record of when it has been wronged. It is never glad about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance."* (1 Corinthians 13:4-7)
    - **Love binds all of the other Christian characteristics together.**
    - *"Let us stop just saying we love each other; let us really show it by our actions."* (1 John 3:18)
- ***What "Christ-like qualities" do I need to develop to become a holy person?***

Becoming One Of God's "Holy People" Involves:

MAKING SOME CHRIST-LIKE <u>COMMITMENTS</u>

- *"Since God chose you to be the holy people He loves, you must clothe yourselves with . . ."* (Colossians 3:12)
- **Godly people are committed to letting *God's Peace* guard their hearts.**
    - *"And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace."* (Colossians 3:15)
    - **The word "rule" means to "act as an umpire", and when we obey the will of God, we will have His peace confirming our lives.**
    - **"Peace" means "to join together," while "worry" means to pull apart.**
    - *"Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank Him for all He has done. If you do this, you will experience God's peace, which is far more wonderful than the human mind can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus."* (Philippians 4:6-7)
    - **Peace-filled individuals will be peaceful individuals.**
- **Godly individuals are committed to letting a *Thankfulness to God* govern their disposition.**
    - *"And always be thankful."* (Colossians 3:15)
    - **Thankful people are joyful individuals.**
- **Godly individuals are committed to letting *Christ's Wisdom* guide their decisions.**
    - *"Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives. Teach and counsel each other with all the wisdom He gives."* (Colossians 3:16)
    - **When making small or big decisions, we need to make sure they comply with Jesus' instructions for our lives.**
    - Jesus - *"Anyone who listens to My teaching and obeys Me is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. . . . But anyone who hears My teaching and ignores it is foolish, like a person who builds a house on sand."* (Matthew 7:24-27)
- **Godly individuals are committed to letting their *Witness for Christ* govern their deeds.**
    - *"Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with thankful hearts. And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father."* (Colossians 3:16-17)
    - **Everything we do and say should be for the glory of God and for the acclaim of Jesus.**
    - *"Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God."* (1 Corinthians 10:31)
    - ***Is there anything in my life that the Lord wouldn't approve of?***

- ***What needs to change about me for me to become more "Christ-like"?***
- *"In this new life,. . . Christ is all that matters, and He lives in all of us."* (Colossians 3:11)