

The Clothing of Righteousness

Colossians 3:12-14

"It is most significant to note that every one of the graces listed has to do with personal relationships between man and man. There is no mention of virtues like efficiency or cleverness, not even of diligence or industry – not that these things are unimportant. But the great basic Christian virtues are those which govern human relationships. Barclay

- I. The Lord likens the obligation of expressing his character traits to others as the putting on of the clothing of righteousness. He is letting us know as his chosen ones dearly loved by him, that we are to make every effort to continue to "put on" the very virtues that he has expressed toward us in granting us salvation. To fail to do so is to treat cheaply his costly grace toward undeserving sinners.

Col. 3:9-10

2 Cor. 5:16

Phil 3:10

neos = recently born, young, youthful, new

kainos = of a new kind, unprecedented, novel, uncommon, unheard of

anakainoo = to cause to grow up, new, to make new

apekdyomai = wholly to strip off for one's self (for one's own advantage), denoting separation from what is put off. Despoil, disarm.

Cor. 5:14-17 *For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again. So from now on we regard no one from a worldly (carnal/fleshly) point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come.*

- II. The reason we are to clothe ourselves with the virtues of righteousness is because we have been handpicked by God to be recipients of his saving grace. Out of his love he saved us and made us holy, and the proper response to this profound concept of election is to represent him well to a dying world.

Col. 3:12a

Eph. 1:4-5,11

Rom. 8:29-33

Rom. 9:6-26; 11:5,7,28; 1 Thess 1:4; 2 Thess 2:13; Titus 1:1

eklektos = picked out, chosen, chosen by God to obtain salvation through Christ.

"Of course, election is a "sacred secret" that belongs to God's children. It is not a doctrine that we believers explain to the unsaved. 'The Lord knows them that are His' (2 Tim. 2:19), so we must leave the working out of His eternal purposes to him. Our task is to share the good news of the gospel with a lost world." Wiersbe

- III. God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved by him, have been given the responsibility to put on in increasing measure his compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience and love. If our hearts desire is to be renewed in knowledge in the image of Jesus (vs. 10), then we will take seriously the quality of our relationship with others.

Col. 3:12-14

2 Tim. 1:15-16

"Pursing the clothing imagery, we could consider love to be the thread that stitches the virtues securely into the "quilt" of the church." Osborne