



I Am Becoming Better By Becoming More Like Christ

PART 1

Warren W. Wiersbe, [*The Bible Exposition Commentary*](#), vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996), 137–141.



Colossians 3:12–17 (NKJV)

12 Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering;

13 bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.

14 But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.

15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.

16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

17 And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

Live A Holy Life

This section completes Paul's exhortation to the Christian to live a holy life. It continues the illustration of *garments*: "Put off ... put on" (Col. 3:8–10).

Colossians 3:8–10 (NKJV)

8 But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth.

9 Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds,

10 and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,

He exhorted his readers to put off the grave clothes of sin and the old life, and to put on the “grace clothes” of holiness and the new life in Christ.

- The emphasis in this section is on *motives*. Why should we put off the old deeds and put on the qualities of the new life?
- Paul explained four motives that ought to encourage us to walk in newness of life (*Rom. 6:4*).

Romans 6:4 (NKJV)

Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

1

The Grace of Christ

(Col. 3:12–14)

Grace is God's favor to undeserving sinners. Paul reminded the Colossians of what God's grace had done for them.

2

God Chose Them

(V. 12a)

The word *elect* means “chosen of God.” God’s words to Israel through Moses help us to understand the meaning of salvation by grace.

Deuteronomy 7:7–8 (NKJV)

7 The Lord did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples;

8 but because the Lord loves you, and because He would keep the oath which He swore to your fathers, the Lord has brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you from the house of bondage, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

This miracle of divine election did not depend on anything that we are or that we have done; for God chose us in Christ “before the foundation of the world” (*Eph. 1:4*).

Ephesians 1:4 (NKJV)

just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,

- If God saved a sinner on the basis of merit or works, nobody would be saved.
- It is all done through God's grace that it might all bring glory to God.

The Election Of God

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 with Him.
- Our task is to share the Good News of the Gospel with a lost world.

Romans 11:5–7 (NKJV)

5 Even so then, at this present time there is a remnant according to the election of grace.

6 And if by grace, then it is no longer of works; otherwise grace is no longer grace. But if it is of works, it is no longer grace; otherwise work is no longer work.

7 What then? Israel has not obtained what it seeks; but the elect have obtained it, and the rest were blinded.

God Set Them Apart

- ***God Set Them Apart (V. 12).***
 - That Is The Meaning Of The Word Holy.
 - Because We Have Trusted Christ, We Have Been Set Apart From The World Unto The Lord.
- We Are Not Our Own; We Belong Completely To Him.

1 Corinthians 6:19–20 (NKJV)

19 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?

20 For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

- Just as the marriage ceremony sets apart a man and a woman for each other exclusively, so salvation sets the believer apart exclusively for Jesus Christ.
- Would it not be a horrible thing, at the end of a wedding, to see the groom run off with the maid of honor?
- It is just as horrible to contemplate the Christian living for the world and the flesh.

3 God Loves Them

(v. 12)

- When an unbeliever sins, he is a creature breaking the laws of the holy Creator and Judge.
- When a Christian sins, he is a child of God breaking the loving heart of his Father.
- Love is the strongest motivating power in the world.
- As the believer grows in his love for God, he will grow in his desire to obey Him and walk in the newness of life that he has in Christ.

4

God Has Forgiven Them

(v. 13–14)

- “Having forgiven you all trespasses” (*Col. 2:13*).
- God’s forgiveness is complete and final; it is not conditional or partial.
- How is the holy God able to forgive us guilty sinners? Because of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross.

- God has forgiven us “for Christ’s sake” (*Eph. 4:32*), and not for our own sake.
- Chosen by God, set apart for God, loved by God, and forgiven by God.
- They all add up to GRACE!
- Now, because of these gracious blessings, the Christian has some solemn responsibilities before God. He must put on the beautiful graces of the Christian life.
- Paul named eight graces.