

Living as God's Chosen People

Colossians 3:12–4:1 (NIV)

The new life in Christ is revealed through our character, relationships, and daily conduct.

A. Introduction: The Evidence of a New Life

1. A genuine relationship with Christ always produces visible change.
2. Christianity is not only about what we believe; it is about how we live.
3. Paul explains that believers have died & been raised with Christ.
4. We must put off the old self (3:9) & put on the new self (3:10)
5. A transformed heart produces a transformed life.
6. Paul now describes what the “new self” looks like in everyday living.(Col 3:12)
7. Notice Paul begins with our Christian identity before behaviour:
8. To do in Jesus’ name means representing & reflecting Him in every area of life

B. Put On Christlike Character

1. As we choose what we wear physically, we choose what character we put on.
2. We Choose Compassion — having a heart that cares
3. Compassion means having a heart that feels the needs & struggles of others.
4. Jesus was moved with compassion toward the sick, the lost, or the suffering.
5. We Choose Kindness — A Life That Blesses
6. Kindness is practical love expressed through actions.
7. A small act of kindness can become powerful expressions of God’s love.
8. We Choose Humility — A Heart That Puts Others First
9. The world says: “Promote yourself.” Christ says: “Humble yourself.”
10. Humility is not thinking less of ourselves; it is thinking of ourselves less.
11. We Choose Gentleness — Strength Under Control
12. Gentleness is not weakness.
13. Jesus was gentle, yet He confronted sin, defended truth, & showed courage.
14. Gentleness is seen through controlling our words, reactions & attitudes.
15. We Choose Patience — Grace With Difficult People
16. Patience is often tested through relationships.
17. God has shown incredible patience toward us.
18. Because we have received His grace, we extend grace to others.

C. Let Love Hold Everything Together

1. In Colossians 3:14, Paul writes: *"And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity."*
2. Love is the garment that completes every other virtue.
3. Love gives every virtue its true meaning.
4. In John 13:35, Jesus said:
5. *"By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."*
6. The strongest evidence of Christ in our lives is not simply knowledge—it is love.

D. Let Christ Rule Your Heart

1. Let the Peace of Christ Rule
2. *"Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts..."*
3. Christ's peace should oversee our choices, our reactions & our relationships
4. A heart controlled by Christ is not controlled by anxiety, anger, or bitterness.
5. Paul follows with: *"Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly..."*
6. The Word of God should not be a visitor—it should be at home within us.
7. A believer grows through Scripture, teaching, worship & encouragement
8. Let everything we do be done in Jesus' Name
9. *"Whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus."*
10. Christianity affects every area of our lives. Every part belongs to Christ.
11. There is no separation between "spiritual life" and "ordinary life."
12. Then Paul adds an important instruction to us. *"And be thankful."*
13. How often do we give thanks in all circumstances?

E. Let Christ Transform Our Relationships

1. In Col 3:18–4:1, Paul moves from character to relationships.
2. The gospel changes how we treat people closest to us. Firstly in our marriages.
3. He says: wives *"Submit yourselves to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord."*
4. This speaks of a willing partnership, respect, and God's design.
5. Then to husbands: *"Love your wives and do not be harsh with them."*
6. The husband's model is Christ's sacrificial love.
7. A Christian marriage should reflect Love, honour, humility, & forgiveness
8. Paul then tells the Children: *"Obey your parents in everything..."*
9. Then says to the Parents: *"Do not embitter your children..."*
10. Christian parenting is not merely about control; it is about spiritual formation.
11. Children need correction with love, guidance with patience & an example of faith
12. Paul then looks at Christ in the Workplace in Colossians 3:22–4:1
13. Paul addresses servants and masters within the social structure of his time.
14. This principle still applies today, whatever our role.
15. As employee or employer, leader or follower, we serve ultimately Jesus Christ.
16. (Col 3:23) *"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord..."*
17. Our true motivation is not merely human approval. We work to honour God.

F. Conclusion: Put On Christ Every Day

1. Because we are chosen by God, holy, & dearly loved
2. We should put on Compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience & love
3. We should allow Christ to rule our hearts, our words & our actions
4. We should show Christ in our homes, our relationships, & in our workplaces.
5. The world should see Jesus through the way we live.
6. Christian behaviour flows from Christian identity.
7. We do not earn God's love; we respond to God's love.
8. *"Because you belong to Christ, live like Christ."*