



Marriage Growth-Track

Week 3 - Day 1

"Christ's Clothing"

By Jarrod & Katy Wilson

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.
Colossians 3:12-14

There's so much hope in these verses! There's also some very clear directives for how we are to live with one another under God's perfect plan. This is what we see in these verses:

- We are chosen by God;
- It is by God's grace that we are forgiven;
- We are to forgive others because we have been forgiven;
- Love is the glue that holds together the virtues of compassion, kindness, gentleness, and patience

Have you ever heard a wedding sermon that contains these verses? Most of us have because forgiveness plays such a big part in a successful marriage and most pastors figure it probably doesn't hurt to remind everyone publicly about how important it is.

Wedding clothes are some of the most important clothes most of us will ever wear. Women spend lots of time and lots of money finding the perfect dress. They want to be clothed in the most attractive way possible for their beloved. Guys...well guys usually invest a solid 30-minutes into renting a tux because they know shorts and t-shirts are usually frowned upon for wedding attire...that, and they also want to appear as nice as possible for their beloved, too. Even guests get into the whole dressing up act. That's because clothing yourself for a wedding is usually a big deal.

But what is light years more important than the dress, the tux, and pinch-your-toes shoes are the other things you clothe yourself in as you take your vows and everyday afterward. That's why the author of Colossians, Paul, spoke so earnestly of clothing ourselves in compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience—the hallmarks of forgiveness and a successful marriage.

For all of us, it is by grace that we are joined to Christ—nothing less, nothing more. It is also by grace that we are joined to Christ in his death and resurrection. How we treat each other shows how deeply joined to Christ we are.

In a way, Paul is telling Christ-followers what we are to wear when we go out into the world representing Christ. This applies to us individually and as couple representing Christ's holy union of man and wife.

This is how and why we are to clothe ourselves like Christ:

- Clothe yourself in compassion. This requires that we display tender feelings of compassion to one another.
- Clothe yourself in kindness. It was God who showed kindness to us when we were first saved through Christ and it is because of this that we are to show kindness to others.
- Clothe yourself in humility. When we practice humility, we are putting the needs of others over our selfish needs and desires. As a couple, we are called to put our spouse's needs above our own.
- Clothe yourself in gentleness. How you respond to others emotionally shows how much self-control you have. When you show gentleness towards your spouse, you are showing that you are able to control yourself.
- Clothe yourself in patience. This requires that we are not easily or quickly angered or inclined to seek revenge or retaliate.
- Clothe yourself in forbearance. Usually this means having a generous share of tolerating our spouse's habits and quirks.
- Clothe yourself in forgiveness. Again, because God forgave each of us, we are to forgive others.
- Clothe yourself in love. When love is present, so also are each of these traits that work together to deepen a marriage union.

Discussion Questions:

1. How should wearing "Christ's Clothing" affect the way you live your daily?
2. How can you be more loving and forgiving to those who you hold close in life?

Action Steps:

Write these verses on a card and read them every day. Take stock of which quality you most need to work on and pray for it daily.

Prayer:

"Heavenly Father, we thank you for loving us so much that you sent your Son to die for our sins. Because of the way you have loved us, we know that we must love each other the same way. Help us and guide us to show the world that we are joined in Christ through love and forgiv

