

**Colossians - Chapter 3**  
**“Dressed for Success”**  
**Colossians 3:12-13**

**Verse 12-13**

1. A change of identity should result in a change in attitude and action. Remember, we have put off the old man (the sin nature of Adam), and we have put on the new man (the righteous nature of Jesus Christ).
  - We are no longer identified as sinners, dead in trespasses and sins. We are now saints in Christ (1:2) who have been made one with Jesus Christ. The flesh has been put off (2:11), and we have been raised from the dead and are alive in Christ. 2:12-13
  - This is our position in Christ. It is a done deal, and was accomplished at the moment of our salvation.
2. Paul says, “*Put on therefore...*” This means, “Based on your new position and identity, you should be putting on some different attitudes.”
3. Again, in this verse, Paul admonishes them based on their new identity. He calls these believers who were once pagan idolaters:
  - “***The elect of God***” - No longer are they the enemies of God (1:21) and alienated from God, but they are part of the body of Christ (the chosen of God). How did they get this elected position? The gospel of Christ came to them, and they placed their faith in Christ (1:5-6). At the moment of salvation, they became part of “*the elect of God.*” They are no longer on the outside looking in as pagan Gentiles. They have a new identity.
  - “***Holy***” - The word “*holy*” means that they have been set apart for God. No longer are they enemies of God, but they belong to Jesus Christ. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20
  - “***Beloved***” - We are forever objects of the Father’s love (Romans 8:39). He calls us “*beloved.*” Paul said that God’s love for us passes knowledge. Ephesians 3:19
4. What a new position and identity we now have in Christ! As one author wrote, because of our new identity, we should “put off the **grave clothes** of the old life, and put on the **grace clothes** of our new life in Christ.”
5. One of the biggest challenges that any believer faces is in regard to his or her attitudes towards other people. As we said earlier, the old sin nature is not eradicated at salvation, and so sometimes believers willingly yield to it. What does this mean?
  - People will fail you, people will do you dirty, people will gossip about you, people will misjudge you, people will disappoint you, and people will flat out sin against you.
  - But remember, you have the capability of doing the same thing to others, and probably have done them at one time or another!
6. Therefore, Paul gets real practical and shows us what our new identity in Christ looks like in our personal relationships when we yield to His life and power.

- ***“Bowels of mercies”*** – Bowels speaks of the innermost part of you (your gut). You are full of mercy towards others (1 John 3:17). The opposite of this would be if you were quick to judge others and condemn them. This means you are very tenderhearted and compassionate, which makes you an easy person to live with and be around.
- ***“Kindness”*** – If you are saved from your sins, it is because of God’s kindness toward you (Ephesians 2:7; Titus 3:4). It wasn’t because you deserved His kindness. This should cause you to treat others with this same kindness. Ephesians 4:32
- ***“Humbleness of mind”*** – What causes me to get offended when others don’t treat me the way I think they should? What causes me to strike back and seek revenge? Pride. Humility is an attitude of the mind and heart. It is thinking of others first, and ourselves last. Philippians 2:3-5, 8