**Colossians 3:12-14**

I. This passage paints a portrait of a person who has put on Christ

A. Compassion: someone who feels for the needy and actually does something about it (ala the Good Samaritan)

B. Kindness: someone who goes beyond what is expected (especially with their words)

C. Humility: someone who has a posture that says, “everything I am, have, and have accomplished is due to the grace of God and the help of others.” Our sin nature longs to be recognized and praised for our accomplishments, but humility is an “I am third” posture.

D. Gentleness/meekness: someone whose strength is under control (like a horse that has been broken in).

E. Patience: patience is a very countercultural virtue as we have a hard time being patient with customer service, with our children, our family, etc.

F. Bear with one another: the goal is to bear with people without them realizing you are bearing with them.

G. Forgive as the Lord has forgiven you: the extravagant forgiveness we’ve received is the motivation and power to forgive others. It’s easy to harbor bitterness and resentment, but we must remember: “Vengeance is mine, I will repay,” says the Lord.

H. Put on love: this is agape love which is not a feeling, but rather an unconditional, sacrificial, loyal commitment to another person’s good.

II. How do we actually live this life?

A. Remember who we are by God’s grace

1. Consider v. 12: we are chosen, holy, and dearly loved

2. Consider earlier sections of Colossians that remind us of who we are in Christ (3:9-10, 3:3-4, 2:13-14, 2:9)

B. Intentionally commit to obey God’s commands in ch. 3. Set specific goals to obey specific commands of God.

C. Recognize that we can’t do this in our own strength. These virtues are the fruit of the Spirit working in us.

D. Recognize that it’s a battle and a marathon.

E. Appreciate the benefit of living this kind of life: JOY.

1. Joy is this state of mind and spirit where we are walking with God and obeying him.

2. Joy is more than happiness or contentment, although it includes those. It is this deep sense of fulfilment where you are obeying God, you are using your gifts, and you are fulfilling your calling.

**Discussion Questions**

1. Many Christian virtues are mentioned in this week’s passage. As you consider those virtues, was there any idea from Sundays message that struck you particularly or that gave you a new perspective on one of those virtues?

2. On Sunday it was mentioned that we have to intentionally pursue these virtues and can even set goals for pursuing particular virtues at particular times in our lives. As you look at the list, what is one virtue you would like to pursue more intentionally in the next month? What might that look like specifically?

3. Sunday’s message ended with a reminder that a byproduct of living the Christian life is joy. What’s your relationship with joy at this time? Would you consider yourself a joyful person? What would it look like specifically for you to become a more joyful person?