

# THE GLUE THAT BINDS

Sunday March 22,2026

Colossians 3:12-14 (NLT) Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. <sup>13</sup> Make allowance for each other's faults and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. <sup>14</sup> Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony.

**Introduction:** Each of us were intentional this morning in choosing what we would wear to church. You didn't go into your closet and say whatever happens, happens. No, you gave it some thought.

Some of you looked in the mirror and didn't like how an outfit looked and so you made some changes. You chose something that reflected how you wanted to present yourself. Because what you wear matters.

Paul writes, if we are truly children of God, then we must learn to dress like it. Now, he isn't talking about outward clothing, this isn't about cotton, wool, or silk.

He's talking about something deeper. He's talking about inner character.

These are spiritual garments, virtues that are formed on the inside and revealed on the outside. You don't have to tell people what you're wearing spiritually, they will see it in how you respond.

- They will see it in your patience.
- They will see it in your kindness.
- They will see it in your humility.
- They will see it in your love.

So, when Paul says, "clothe yourselves," he's reminding us that this is intentional.

## LOVE IS A CHOICE

Every day, we choose what we put on.

- We can put on pride or humility.
- We can put on harshness or gentleness.
- We can put on impatience or patience.

Love requires intentionality.

You don't accidentally walk in:

- Compassion
- Kindness
- Humility
- Gentleness
- Patience

You choose it. Every day. In every interaction.

In a world that says: "Look out for yourself", "Put yourself first"

The Kingdom says: "Clothe yourself with humility", "Treat others with kindness", "Walk in patience with people"

But choosing love isn't proven on our best days; it's revealed in how we respond when others are at their worst.

## LOVE GIVES PEOPLE ROOM TO MAKE MISTAKES AND GROW

Colossians 3:13 Make allowance for each other's faults and forgive anyone who offends you.

Real relationships require patience.

Think about glue, its purpose is simple: it holds things together when they would otherwise fall apart.

We bump into each other, we crack, we make mistakes.

Because we are imperfect.

- We will disappoint or be disappointed
- We will misunderstand or be misunderstood
- We will hurt or be hurt.

Without something holding us together, everything falls apart. Forgiveness is the expression of love that says, "I'm not letting this break us."

If there is no forgiveness, there will be no community.

Now when we talk about forgiveness, it's important to understand what it is and what it is not.

**What Forgiveness Is Not:**

- Not overlooking the wrong.
- Not pretending as if it didn't hurt.
- Not forgetting what happened.
- Not trusting someone automatically.

**Forgiveness is:**

- A choice to let go of the offense.
- Letting go of the right to get even.
- Refusing to let bitterness take root.
- Choosing peace over hostility.

And this isn't just a good idea; this is the pattern we see all throughout Scripture.

Romans 12:17-18 (NLT) Never pay back evil with more evil. Do things in such a way that everyone can see you are honorable. <sup>18</sup> Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone.

1 Corinthians 13:5 (NLT) Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud <sup>5</sup> or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged.

Ephesians 4:31-32 (NLT) Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior. <sup>32</sup> Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.

Colossians 3:13 (NLT) Make allowance for each other's faults and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.

Paul doesn't just tell us to forgive; he raises the standard. "Forgive as the Lord forgave you." That changes everything.

Because now the standard is not how we feel, the standard is how we have been forgiven. Let me say it clearly: Healthy relationships are not built on perfection; they are built on forgiveness.

And when forgiveness becomes the culture, love becomes the glue that holds everything together.

That's why Paul says something powerful in the very next verse.

Colossians 3:14 “Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony.”

## LOVE THE GLUE THAT HOLDS EVERYTHING TOGETHER

In other words: Love is not just one part of the Christian life; love is the glue of community. Without love:

- Kindness becomes shallow
- Service becomes duty
- Gifts become showmanship

We can have all the right actions, but the wrong heart. That’s exactly what Paul addressed in another church, the church in Corinth.

The church in Corinth was full of spiritual gifts, but it lacked love.

1 Corinthians 13:1-3 (NLT) If I could speak all the languages of earth and of angels, but didn’t love others, I would only be a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup> If I had the gift of prophecy, and if I understood all of God’s secret plans and possessed all knowledge, and if I had such faith that I could move mountains, but didn’t love others, I would be nothing. <sup>3</sup> If I gave everything I have to the poor and even sacrificed my body, I could boast about it; but if I didn’t love others, I would have gained nothing.

The church of Corinth was full of spiritual gifts, but it struggled with holiness, unity, and love. Some believers were suing each other, others were competing over their gifts, and many were causing division.

Because of this, Paul wrote to them to call them back to unity, humility, and genuine love, reminding them to put others before themselves instead of living for self-interest.

**Here’s the reality:** Nothing breaks down a community faster than serving out of duty, pride, or self-interest rather than a sincere love for God and people.

Paul isn’t minimalizing the gifts of the Spirit; God gives good gifts. He is reminding them that gifts are to be used for the right reasons: out of Love for God and people, not to draw attention to oneself.

And that’s the warning for us: You can have activity without unity, gifting without maturity, but without love, it all falls apart.

**Conclusion:** Every day, we choose what we put on and above all, we choose love. Love is the glue that holds us together. Without it, community falls apart; with it, unity grows. So, let's be intentional and choose love in everything we do.