

Theme: As those who have been given new life in Christ, believers must put on the virtues that reflect the character of God shown to us in Christ, and they must walk in unity with the Church.

## I. Intro – Be Like Mike

- A. The iconic picture of Jordan in the air to slam dunk
- B. Jordan was everywhere - magazines, TV, Nike, McD's
- C. The motto - Be Like Mike!
- D. It did not work! - I tried it!
- E. Paul gives us a much loftier goal - be like Christ!

## II. The Basis - We Are God's Chosen People

- A. As always, this is rooted in the Gospel
  - 1. Therefore, as God's chosen people (v12)
  - 2. As chosen people, we are holy - set apart (v12)
  - 3. As chosen people we are loved (v12)
  - 4. All of these titles for OT Israel - taught many times
- B. Our status underlies all of this
  - 1. All indicatives from 1:1-2:5 - no commands at all!
  - 2. Last week - new life in Christ basis for putting off vices
  - 3. Status as chosen basis for putting on virtues
  - 4. Gospel is **ALWAYS** the basis for commands

## III. The Command - Put On Christlike Virtues

- A. The basic command - clothe yourselves (v12)

- 1. Clothe (v12) is same word as "put on" in v10
- 2. We need new clothes befitting of God's holy people

## B. A quick look at the virtues

- 1. Like vices, the list is representative, not exhaustive
- 2. These virtues can seem 'soft' or 'weak'
  - a. Ancients did not consider some of these virtues
  - b. Nietzsche despised these; said it was weak
  - c. But they miss the point - this takes real strength
- 3. These virtues describe God's salvific actions in Christ
  - a. Compassion/mercy - Romans 12:1
  - b. Kindness - Titus 3:4-5
  - c. Humility - Philippians 2:3-8; despised by ancients!
  - d. Gentleness - often with humility - Matthew 11:28-29
  - e. Patience - 1 Timothy 1:16
- 4. To be clothed with these is to be clothed with Christ!
  - a. We are to put off the old man - Adam (vv9-10)
  - b. We are to put on the new man - Christ! (vv9-10)
  - c. Romans 13:14 - put on Christ

## C. The command - be like Christ!

## IV. The Outcome - A Christ-Filled Community

- A. The communal focus of this passage
  - 1. These virtues are really communal - relational (v12)

2. vv13-16 are communal - one another; one body;
- B. A bearing, forgiving, loving, peace filled community
1. Participles to show how virtues work in community
  2. A progression of actions to maintain communal unity
    - a. Bear with each other (v13) - put up with differences
    - b. Forgive - real grievances - just like Christ did (v13)
    - c. Forgive - built on word for 'grace'
    - d. Love - binding virtues or community together (v14)
    - e. Peace - plays the umpire - decides for unity! (v15)

- C. A Christ centered, gospel filled community
1. Be thankful - v15 - for the Gospel, grace, Christ
  2. The Word of Christ - gospel - dwelling richly (v16)
  3. Speaking, singing, admonishing each other (v16)
  4. Gratitude - literally grace - filling our hearts (v16)
  5. Everything filled with Christ! (v17)
  6. Always filled with thanks (v15, 17)

## V. Applying the Word

- A. Am I walking in unity with the body of Christ?
1. Relationships between sinners are tough!
  2. We find some believers difficult to be with
  3. Real grievances develop over time

4. Our culture encourages individualism, superficiality
5. Am I practicing these virtues to build real community?
6. Do I bear with those I just don't like that much?
7. Do I forgive real grievances - like Christ?
8. Does peace of the Body call the shots for me?
9. Or do I just reduce community?

- B. Am I reflecting on and rooted in the Gospel?
1. This is the basis of everything
  2. Christ centered, gospel focused life produces community!
  3. Do we meditate on what He has done for us?
  4. Do we speak His grace to one another at home?
  5. Do we speak His grace to one another in BRCC?
  6. Are we thankful? Do we express it often?
- C. Communion - Our Communal Meal of Grace & Thanks

## A Christlike Life and Community

Colossians 3:12-17  
 March 27, 2012, 2012  
 Communion  
 Hebrews 13:20-21

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God — this is your spiritual act of worship.  
Romans 12:1

But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, 5 he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy.  
Titus 3:4–5

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. 4 Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. 5 Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: 6 Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, 7 but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death — even death on a cross!  
Philippians 2:3–8

Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.  
Matthew 11:28–29

But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his unlimited patience as an example for those who would believe on him and receive eternal life.  
1 Timothy 1:16

Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature.  
Romans 13:14

20 May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, 21 equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.  
Hebrews 13:20–21