**Sermon Title: The Priority of Christ in the New Man’s Life, Part 1**

**Sermon Text: Colossians 3:12-17**

**Sermon Purpose: To call hearers to the lifestyle of new man virtues.**

**Sermon Proposition: There are 6 virtues that are key factors in the new man’s life.**

**Introduction:** The believer when reflecting on the pre-eminence of Christ, must not only understand what God has done in choosing them, but just as importantly what He is doing in sanctification of the chosen.

**I. The 1st virtue is the fruit factor. V.12**

**II. The 2nd virtue is the forgiveness factor. V.13**

**III. The 3rd virtue is the foundation factor. V.14**

**IV. The 4th virtue is the fortifying factor. V.15**

**V. The 5th virtue is the filling factor. V.16**

**VI. The 6th virtue is the faithfulness factor. V.17**

**I. The 1st virtue is the fruit factor. V.12**

 A. The fruit is a result of God’s **election**. V.12a

 This designates the Christian as those who have been chosen by God the Father. No one is converted by their own choice, but only as a response to God’s effectual free uninfluenced sovereign grace. (**2 Corinthians 5:17; Romans 8:29; 9:10-24; Ephesians 4:17-24;**

 **Genesis 1:1-5; Ephesians 1:4; 1 Thessalonians 1:4**)

 **John 15:16** "You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and *that* your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.

 **1 Timothy 1:8-9** But we know that the law *is* good if one uses it lawfully, **9** knowing this: that the law is not made for a righteous person, but for *the* lawless and insubordinate, for *the* ungodly and for sinners, for *the* unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers,

 **2 Thessalonians 2:13** But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth,

 **2 Timothy 1:9** who has saved us and called *us* with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began,

 1. As the chosen we are **holy**.

 Hagios (holy) means “set apart,” or “separate.” When we as believer’s fail to live and behave differently from the world, we violate the very intentions of sovereign election.

 2. As the chosen we are **beloved**.

 Election means believers are the object of God’s incomprehensible love, and that is special. (**Ephesians 1:4-5; Romans 9:13-16, 19-22**)

 **John 13:1** Now before the feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour had come that He should depart from this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end.

 **1 John 3:1-2** Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. **2** Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

 **Acts 13:46-48** Then Paul and Barnabas grew bold and said, "It was necessary that the word of God should be spoken to you first; but since you reject it, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, behold, we turn to the Gentiles. **47** "For so the Lord has commanded us:`I have set you as a light to the Gentiles, That you should be for salvation to the ends of the earth.'" **48** Now when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and glorified the word of the Lord. And as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed.

 B. The fruit is a result of **Christ’s** character. V.12b

 Paul now begins to describe the behavior and attitudes God expects in response. The 5 virtues of the new life are in direct contrast to the vices of the old life. There is to be an outward manifestation of the inward transformation.

 New creation identity must illustrate itself in new creation behaviors. While “putting off” the old life, believer’s must “put on” the new life.

 **Romans 13:14** But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to *fulfill its* lusts.

 To “put on” means to “clothe yourselves” with behavior fitted for God’s people, this clothing is to envelope and cover the Christian.

 1. The chosen are to put on **tender** **mercies**.

 This is a picture of a “heart of compassion.” It is a Hebraism that denotes the internal organs of the human body, used figuratively to describe the seat of emotions.

 (Joseph **Genesis 50**)

 Put on a heartfelt compassion, be clothed with it. Have a deep, gut-level feeling of compassion. This virtue was needed in the ancient world. For the sick, injured, orphans, or elderly, who often left to fend for themselves.

 2. The chosen are to put on **kindness**.

 This is a reference to goodness toward others that pervades the entire person, mellowing out all harsh aspects. (**Luke 10:25-37**)

 **Matthew 11:29-30** "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. **30** "For My yoke *is* easy and My burden is light."

 The Greek term refers to the grace that pervades the whole person, mellowing all that might be harsh, it is the idea of not being harsh, or hard to bear. God is even kind to ungrateful and evil people.

 **Luke 6:35** "But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil.

 Illustration – The Good Samaritan (**Luke 10:25-37**) (Steven **Acts 7**)

 3. The chosen are to put on **humility**.

 This is the perfect antidote to the self-love of any society. Self-love poisons human relationships. It took Christianity to elevate humility as a virtue in the 1st century.

 (**1 Samuel 20-24**)

 4. The chosen are to put on **meekness**.

 This word is sometimes translated “gentleness.” It is the willingness to suffer injury or insult rather than inflict revenge for such hurts. This is not a result of weakness or spinelessness, but rather the willingness to suffer injury instead of inflicting it. (Philemon) (Moses)

 5. The chosen are to put on **longsuffering**.

 It is sometimes translated “patience.” This is the opposite of the vices of quick anger, resentment, wrath, or revenge and thus best pictures Jesus Christ.

 **1 Timothy 1:12** And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting *me* into the ministry,

 **2 Peter 3:15** and consider *that* the longsuffering of our Lord *is* salvation-- as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you,

 Longsuffering endures injustice and troublesome circumstances with hope for possible coming relief.

 William Barclay writes, “This is the spirit which never loses patience with its fellow man. Patience with their foolishness and their unteachability never drives them to cynicism or despair; others insults and their ill-treatment never drive them to bitterness or wrath, malice, or slander.”

 [**The Letters to the Philippians, Colossians and Thessalonians Louisville: Westminster, 1975, p.158.**]

**Application:**

1. Realize and study what it means to be chosen by God.

2. Review the virtues, memorize the virtues, pray in light of the virtues, practice the virtues.

3. Respond by putting off and putting on daily.