

Putting on Christ (Part 1)
Colossians 3:9-17

Pastor Wes – March 1, 2026

Theme: If we want to live for our glorious Savior—we must increasingly put on Christ.

But how do we put on Christ? We must take four decisive actions. The first of those actions is to --

I. Embrace our New Identity (vv. 9-12a)

- A. We are a transformed people (vv. 9-10)
- B. We are a united people (v. 11)
 - 1. We don't make distinctions based on ethnic background
 - 2. We don't make distinctions based on religious background
 - 3. We don't make distinctions based on cultural background
 - 4. We don't make distinctions based on economic background
 - 5. We don't make distinctions based on gender
- C. We are a chosen people ("*chosen of God*" – v. 12a)
- D. We are a holy people ("*holy*" – v. 12a)
- E. We are a loved people ("*beloved*" – v. 12a)

1. **There are many ways in this world by which a person's identity can be described. Besides the ones listed in the outline above, list as many different ways you can think of.**

2. **By the command of Jesus Christ, Lazarus was instantly transformed from a dead, decaying corpse into a living, healthy human being. How does that miracle give us a picture of what happens to a person at the instant of being born again? (see vv. 9-10; 2 Cor 5:17; 1 Pet 1:3)**

3. **From letter B in the outline above, what critical problem does the practice of "making distinctions" cause?**

What is the overriding distinction in verse 11 by which God has solved this problem?

Do you have discomfort around or a bias against certain people or groups of people? Choosing to “lay aside” that characteristic of your old self would be a great first step, but what godly characteristic or virtue could you “put on” to overcome that attitude?

- 4. Verse 12a says that believers are people whom God has chosen. But the people in that group are there because they chose to receive Christ and be reconciled to God. (2 Cor 5:20) These verses present an apparent dilemma. How can they both be true?**

- 5. The word “holy” in Scripture means to be set apart, morally pure, sacred, sanctified. The English word “saints” comes from the same Greek root word (*hagios*). God sees believers as holy people, according to verse 12a. Are you embracing this truth as motivation for living out your calling? For becoming the person God considers you to be? How does this process—your sanctification—bring glory to God? (2 Peter 3:18)**

- 6. God refers to believers as His beloved. What an amazing part of our identity in Christ! The implication of 1 John 4:10 is that God loved you, an unrepentant sinner, before you ever thought of loving Him. How would you describe your experience of God’s love to someone who doesn’t know Him?**

How does such love motivate you unto greater Christlikeness?