

## **HARMONY IS AN OVERFLOW OF LOVE.**

Colossians 3:12-14

**Put on** then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, <sup>13</sup> **bearing with** one another and, if one has a complaint against another, **forgiving** each other; as the Lord has **forgiven** you, so you also must **forgive**. <sup>14</sup> And above all these **put on** love, which **binds everything together** in perfect harmony.

How to live differently in a dysfunctional family

1) Put off the old self – 3:8-11

• **Throw** out what pulls you **away** from Jesus – 3:5 Put to death therefore **what is earthly in you...**

- sexual immorality,
- impurity,
- passion,
- evil desire,
- and covetousness, which is idolatry.

• Why put these things to death? Because they bring wrath of God – 3:6  
*On account of these the wrath of God is coming.*

Q: What is “the wrath of God?”

A: Initially, it's turning us over to our own self-destructive desires. Ultimately, this leads to eternal separation from God in a place called Hell. Romans 1:24a *Therefore God gave them up in the **lusts** (desires) of their hearts...*

• Walk away from the **past** – 3:7-8 *In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. <sup>8</sup> But now you must put them all away:*

- anger,
- wrath,

- *malice,*
- *slander,*
- *and obscene (abusive) talk from your mouth.*

- **Reflect** your new Father – 3:9-10 *Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices<sup>10</sup> and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.*

John 8:44

*You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires.*

- No family is immune from dysfunction or excluded from the healing that comes from Jesus – 3:11 *Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, **Scythian**,<sup>1</sup> slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.*

2) Remember your **identity** – 3:12 *Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved,*

- I am wanted: *God's chosen ones,*
- I am not damaged goods: *holy*
- I am loved: *and beloved,*

3) Put on the new self

- *compassionate hearts,*
- *kindness,*

"Romans' four cardinal virtues: wisdom, justice, temperance, and courage—mercy was not among them."<sup>2</sup>

- *humility,*
- *meekness,*
- *and patience,*

“Significantly, Paul focused on the individual who is to have patience, rather than the one who caused a problem. The place to begin in any group tension is with oneself rather than others.”<sup>3</sup>

### When your family begins to grind you down...

- 1) Bear with them vs. throw them away – 3:13a **bearing with** one another
- 2) Forgive them just as Christ has forgiven you – 3:13b *and, if one has a complaint against another, **forgiving** each other; as the Lord has **forgiven** you, so you also must forgive.*
- 3) Be a unifier – 3:14 *And above all these put on love, which **binds everything together** in **perfect harmony**.*

### Preparations for Next Steps

- 1) Can you identify your family’s area of dysfunction?
- 2) Can you identify your part in your family’s dysfunction?
- 3) If you draw near to God, He can change your family by changing you.

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<sup>1</sup> David Hume, *An Enquiry Concerning the Principles of Morals*: Oxford Philosophical Texts, Tom L. Beauchamp ed., (Oxford University Press: New York, 1998), 135, <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Scythian>, Diodorus Siculus Library of History, Book II, 43-44.

<sup>2</sup> William Hendriksen, *Matthew: New Testament Commentary* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1973), 276.

<sup>3</sup> R. R. Melick, *Philippians, Colossians, Philemon*, vol. 32, (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1991), 299.