

Central Idea: Believers should act based on God's principles.

I. The Christian's Condition (12a)

- The present state of the believer:
 - Chosen: Saved by God's grace through faith (Eph 2:8-9)
 - Holy: Set apart, from the world and for the Lord
 - Beloved: Loved by God
- The reasons for this list:
 - Reminds the Colossians of their position in Christ
 - Serves as motivation to follow God's principles

II. The Christian's Character (12b-14)

- Believers are to put on:
 - Compassion: Sensitivity to those suffering and in need
 - Should be a constant attitude of our heart
 - Kindness: Generally helpful or sympathetic
 - Typically shown in thoughtful personal interactions
 - Humility: Having a proper, realistic view of yourself
 - Think of others first, over themselves
 - Gentleness: Power under control
 - Not arrogant or harsh, acts in consideration of others
 - Patience: Long-suffering & Self-restraining
 - Bearing with One Another
 - Putting up with others; Enduring discomfort
 - God is the supreme example of patience
 - Forgiving Each Other
 - Not holding grudges against one another
 - Should do this because we've been forgiven
 - Love: Doing what is best for another person
 - Unites us as believers, and pushes us toward perfection
 - All these characteristics find their root in love

III. The Christian's Conduct

- As it relates to:
 - The Peace of Christ
 - “Let it rule in your hearts”
 - “Rule” literally, means to umpire, or be in charge of
 - Christ's peace, should be a determining factor in our decision making
 - Peace works with love to maintain unity
 - “Be thankful”
 - Thankfulness is the normal result of peace and unity
 - Also helps promote and maintain unity
- The Word of Christ
 - “Let it richly dwell within you”
 - Allow the Word of God to permeate your life
 - This enables us to teach and admonish properly
 - Teaching: Imparting the truth
 - Admonishing: Correcting, or warning against, error
 - Mutual responsibility of believers, done with wisdom
 - Singing also springs out of the Word dwelling richly
 - Psalms: Inspired Old Testament Psalms
 - Hymns: Songs of praise and thanksgiving to God
 - Spiritual Songs: Expression of biblical truth via music
 - These all should be characterized by thankfulness
 - A Spirit-filled believer is a Word-filled believer
- The Name of Christ
 - “word or deed” = All outward life, whatever you say or do
 - To act in one's name is to conduct yourself as their representative
 - Basic principle of Christian living, applies to all of life

Application:

- Live in such a way that you maintain unity with God and man