

TITLE: Forbear One Another (Spiritual Suits & Boots)

TEXT: Colossians 3:1-14

I. POSITION: In Christ, You Are Bespoke (3:12)

- Before he teaches us **WHAT** we should **PUT ON**...
 - He tells us **WHO** we belong to.
 - **WHO** has *CHOSEN US* out of all the stock cloth and is going to weave us into a new creation.
- Who does Paul say we are?:
 - **Elect of God**
 - **Holy**
 - **Beloved**
 - **1 Pet 2:9-10**

II. PRACTICE: Clothe Ourselves with Attributes Befitting of Christ (3:12)

- “Put on” – literally from the Greek meaning “to clothe”
- **Because of WHO you BELONG TO, clothe yourself in a way that reflects that.**
 - But the clothing isn’t an external garment...
 - It is a matter of internal transformation...
 - So that your outward works reflect those of Jesus.
- Now, to do justice to this section of Scripture, we need to note that we can’t just put on the clothing of Christ over the top of what we already have one.
 - Paul has already been stating that there are some things you should be putting off.
 - Simply -they are sinful.
 - Sinful things aren’t befitting of CHRIST!
 - **If you are in Christ, God wants you to be like Christ.**
 - Bowels of Mercies – “A heart of Compassion”
 - Kindness – Similar to compassion...
 - Humbleness of Mind – Humility
 - Meekness (not weakness) – Gentleness combined with self-control.
 - Longsuffering – Patience

How do I do this?

- You need to rely on the Holy Spirit each day. You need to do what Paul teaches here:
 - **Mortify** – put to death the old man.
 - **Put off** – sinful anger, wrath, bitterness, revenge...
 - **Renewed in Knowledge** – by the Scriptures
 - **Put on** – these qualities that Jesus exhibited

III. PATIENCE: **Bear with One Another (3:13-14)**

- The word “forbearing” means to “bear with” or “Put up with one another”
- Slightly nuanced from “patience”
 - “**Patience** is waiting for others to mature in grace.”
 - “Forbearance is (that kind of) **patience** under provocation...”
 - Purposefully holding back judgment or wrath...
- Who else did this? Jesus
- **Our default is to act like the Old man.**
- But when we are acting like the old man, we are not acting like Jesus.
- **If we are going to be like Jesus, if we are going to CLOTHE OURSELVES WITH CHRISTLIKENESS...then we need to help others by forbearing with their shortcomings and pointing them back to Jesus in our response.**
 - **Spiritually speaking...**
 - “Sometimes we just need help putting on our jackets.”
 - Sometimes we just need help to put on Christ.
 - We need less people standing around and pointing at the guy who is wrestling to take his old filthy shirt off...
 - Less gossip about the lady who is trying hard to put on Christlikeness...
 - More discipleship - Let me show you how-to put-on Christ...
- What Paul is saying here is that when we are PUTTING ON CHRIST – that **LOVE is the thread** that holds everything together.
 - Love is the motivation...

- Love is the source for patience...
- Love is the unifying element between man and God...
- Love is the most important part.