

INTRODUCTION.

TODAY, ~ WE CONTINUE OUR LOOK ~ AT COL. ~ 3: ~ 12-17.

▶▶ As we know, ~ in this paragraph, ~ Paul ~ exhorts believers ~ to embrace and practice ~ godliness ~ in ~ every area of our lives ~ in place of ~ ungodliness.

▶▶ This ~ is Paul's overall point/topic ~ in this paragraph.

▷▷ Basic command presenting and governing the topic in [12a](#).

▶▶ Expansion

▶▶ 2 things in this expansion.

▷▷ Reason for this replacement, ~ which we looked at last time.

↳↳ As we observed, ~ because ~ we are ~ chosen by God, ~ made holy by him, ~ and ~ dearly loved by him, ~ ¶¶

→→ we ~ are to embrace and practice ~ that ~ which is ~ compatible with ~ and suitable for ~ such a status.

↳↳ And godliness, ~ in every area of our lives, ~ is the ~ only thing ~ that fits the bill.

→→ In no ~ way, ~ shape, ~ or ~ form ~ does ungodliness ~ fit the bill.

▷▷ And 2nd, ~ in [vv. ~ 12c-17](#), ~ Some examples ~ of what godliness ~ looks like. ¶¶ 1/16

NOW, ~ AS WE OBSERVED LAST TIME, ~ THERE'S ONE THING ~ WE SHOULD KEEP IN mind ~ as we go through this paragraph.

▶▶ While we are ~ to embrace and practice godliness ~ in private ~ and ~ in relation to unbelievers and believers alike, ~ ¶¶

▷▷ in this paragraph ~ Paul ~ is primarily talking about ~ our relationships ~ with other believers ~ in our local church.

AS NOTED, ~ WE FIND ~ THE BASIC COMMAND ~ PRESENTING AND GOVERNING ~ the topic of the paragraph ~ in verse 12a.

PUT ON THEREFORE.

▶▶ "Therefore" ~ points us back ~ to the previous paragraph, ~ 3: ~ 5-11, ~ in which ~ Paul told us ~ to ~ eliminate what belongs to our sin nature.

▷▷ TPID, ~ in Col. ~ 3: ~ 5-11, ~ Paul instructed believers ~ to make ~ a ~ radical, ~ decisive, ~ and final ~ break ~ ¶¶

↳↳ with all ~ of the sinful ~ characteristics, ~ thoughts, ~ speech, ~ attitudes, ~ and ~ patterns of behavior ~ of our sinful nature.

▷▷ And all of that ~ falls under the heading ~ of ungodliness.

↳↳ Ungodliness ~ characterizes our old nature.

▷▷ Since ~ we are ~ new creations in Christ, ~ we are ~ to totally ~ eliminate these things ~ from our lives.

↳↳ What belongs to our ~ old nature ~ is not ~ compatible with ~ or suitable for ~ our new nature. ¶¶ 2/16

▶▶ And then Paul proceeds to tell us ~ in this next paragraph, ~ 3: ~ 12-17, ~ 17

▷▷ that ~ ungodliness ~ in every area of our lives ~ must be replaced ~ by godliness ~ in every area of our lives..

↳↳ We know this ~ because everything ~ that Paul tells us ~ in this paragraph ~ to embrace and practice ~ falls under the heading ~ of godliness.

▷▷ In contrast to ungodliness, ~ godliness ~ in every area of our lives ~ is ~ well-matched with ~ and appropriate for ~ our new nature.

IN VERSES ~ 12c-17, ~ PAUL GIVES SOME EXAMPLES ~ OF WHAT GODLINESS ~ LOOKS like.

TPID, ~ EX. ~ OF WHAT WE ARE TO EMBRACE & PRACTICE SINCE WE'RE GOD'S PEOPLE..

WE FIND ~ 5 OF THEM ~ IN VS. 12c. ⇔⇔ REST OF TIME TODAY. ⇔⇔ UNPACK.

THE FIRST EXAMPLE: ~ COMPASSIONATE HEARTS.

HEART OF COMPASSION.

▶▶ Attributive genitive ⇔⇔ Compassionate hearts ←← Love of God (Subjective).

THE GREEK PHRASE ~ INDICATES ~ A COMPASSION ~ WHICH IS FELT DEEPLY ~ AND reaches out with help ~ to others.

▶▶ So ~ we are not to have ~ simply ~ sympathetic pity and concern ~ for the sufferings or hardships of others.

▷▷ We are to have this ~ and then ~ take action ~ to help them. 11 3/16

▶▶ We can draw from ~ James' illustration ~ from his discussion on ~ works proving our faith.

▷▷ James 2:15-16. ⇔⇔ If ~ a brother or sister ~ is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, ~~ and one of you says to them, ~~ "Go in peace, ~~ be warmed and filled," ~ without giving them ~ the things needed for the body, ~ what good is that?

▶▶ Let's apply this to our discussion.

▷▷ If we say ~ that we have compassion ~ but take no action ~ to alleviate the sufferings or hardships of other believers, ~ what good is that?

JESUS, ~ OF COURSE, ~ IS OUR MODEL ~ for having compassion ~ and taking action.

▶▶ Matt. ~ 14: ~ 14. ⇔⇔ When he went ashore ~ he saw a great crowd, ~~ and he had compassion on them ~~ and healed their sick. ⇔⇔ Further (5/2)

▶▶ Also, ~ Luke tells us ~ that Jesus had compassion on the widow from Nain, ~ whose son had died, ~ and raised him from the dead.

▷▷ Lk. ~ 7: ~~ 11-15

AND A GOOD ILLUSTRATION OF THIS ~ is the good Samaritan in Jesus' parable.

▶▶ We read ~ regarding the Samaritan ~ that "he had compassion," ~ and then ~ acted decisively ~ as benefactor ~ to the wounded man.

▷▷ Lk. ~ 10:29-37

▶▶ This action by the Samaritan ~ identifies him ~ as having showed mercy on the wounded man, ~ and ~ as one who crossed a huge chasm ~ between Samaritans and Jews.

▷▷ Hostility ↯ 4/16

THIS IS A BEAUTIFUL PICTURE ~ OF GOD'S COMPASSION FOR US.

▶▶ We were in a miserable, ~ lost condition.

▷▷ And a huge chasm existed between us and God.

▶▶ But God had compassion on us, ~ and then acted decisively on our behalf.

▷▷ He sent His Son ~ to deliver us ~ from our miserable, ~ lost condition ~~ and ~ to destroy ~ the huge chasm ~ that existed between us and himself.

BACK TO VS. 12c ~ & THE 2nd EXAMPLE ~ OF WHAT WE ARE TO EMBRACE & PRACTICE.

KINDNESS.

▶▶ Kindness means ~ acting ~ charitably, ~ benevolently ~ toward others.

▶▶ Kindness ~ takes the initiative ~ in responding generously ~ to others' needs.

▶▶ Furthermore, ~ the kind person ~ is as concerned about his neighbor's good ~~ as he is about his own.

THE BIBLE SHOWS US THAT ~ GOD ~ IS KIND.

▶▶ Even ~ to ungrateful and evil people.

▷▷ Jesus said ~ that the Father ~ gives his sunlight ~ to both the evil ~ and the good, ~~ that ~ he sends rain ~ on the just and the unjust alike, ~~ ¶¶

↪↪ and that ~ he is kind ~ to the ungrateful and wicked. ¶¶ 5/16

▶▶ In point of fact, ~ it was God's kindness ~ that led us to repentance. ⇔⇔ Rom. ~ 2:4.

▷▷ Or do you presume ~ on the riches of ~ his kindness ~ and forbearance ~ and patience, ~ not knowing ~ that God's kindness ~ is meant ~ to lead you to repentance?

▶▶ In Eph. 2, ~ Paul mentions God's kindness toward us.

▶▶ And through the prophet Jeremiah, ~ God says, ~ ¶¶

▷▷ but let the one who boasts ~ boast about this: ~ that they have the understanding to know me, ~ that ~ I am the Lord, ~ who exercises ~ kindness, ~ justice ~ and righteousness ~ on earth, ~ for in these ~ I delight," ~ declares the Lord. (Jer. 9:24, NIV)

MY FELLOW BELIEVERS, ~ WE HAVE BEEN SHOWN ENORMOUS KINDNESS BY GOD.

▶▶ Titus ~ 3: ~ 4-5.

▷▷⁴ But ~ when the goodness and loving kindness ~ of God our Savior appeared, ~⁵ he saved us, ~ not ~ because of works ~ done by us in righteousness, ~ but according to ~ his own mercy, ~ by the washing of regeneration and renewal ~ of the Holy Spirit.

↪↪ And because of that ~ we ought to act that way ~ toward others.

CONTINUING IN VERSE 12c, ~ THE THIRD EXAMPLE ~ of what godliness looks like.

HUMILITY.

▶▶ Being humble ~ does not mean ~ that we should ~ put ourselves down ~ or ~ have a poor self-image. ¶¶ 6/16

▶▶ And it is not to be confused ~ with false modesty.

▷▷ I.e., ~ A vain or hypocritical pretense ~ of holding a low or humble opinion of ~ oneself, ~ one's abilities, ~ or one's circumstance ~ ¶¶

↳↳ so as to encourage others ~ to say the opposite.

▶▶ Paul ~ gives us a good definition of humility ~ in Rom. ~ 12: ~ 3a.

▷▷ "For by the grace given to me ~ I say ~ to everyone among you ~ not to think of himself ~ more highly ~ than he ought to think, ~ but ~ to think ~ with sober judgment."

▷▷ To think ~ more highly of ourselves than we ought to ~ is a natural human tendency.

↳↳ It's hard wired ~ into our sin nature.

↳↳ The Pharisee.

→→ God, ~ I thank you ~ that I'm not like other people ~ greedy, ~ unrighteous, ~ adulterers, ~ or even like this tax collector. ~ I ~ fast twice a week; ~ I ~ give a tenth of everything I get.

▷▷ But, ~ as new creations, ~ we are ~ to reject this sinful human trait. ⇒⇒ Put to death.

▷▷ Believers ~ are not to think of ourselves ~ more highly ~ than we ought to think.

↳↳ Rather, ~ we are ~ "to think ~ with sober judgment."

→→ Moffatt: ~ "he must take ~ a sane view ~ of himself." ¶¶ 7/16

▷▷ Humility, ~ Paul points out in **Rom. ~ 12: ~ 3**, ~ is to be ~ honest ~ in our evaluation of ourselves ~ in relation ~ to God ~ and to others.

↳↳ Tax collector represents humility.

→→ But the tax collector, ~ standing far off, ~ would not even ~ lift up his eyes to heaven, ~ but beat his breast, ~ saying, ~ 'God, ~ be merciful to me, ~ a sinner.'

↳↳ Seal of approval. ⇔⇔ **I tell you, ~ this man ~ went down to his house justified, ~ rather than the other.**

▶▶ Continuing along the lines of the meaning ~ of humility, ~ it also involves ~ the recognition ~ that it is only ~ by the grace of God ~ we are what we are.

▷▷ **1 Cor. 15:10a. ⇔⇔ "But by the grace of God ~ I am ~ what I am."**

↳↳ Paul recognized ~ that ~ he was what he was ~ solely ~ because God ~ poured out his special and undeserved favor on him.

▷▷ Evidently, ~ some Christians in Corinth ~ were boasting ~ because ~ of their talents ~ and because ~ of their positions and factions.

↳↳ So Paul ~ put this rhetorical question to them, ~ in ~ **1 Cor. ~ 4:~ 7b**, ~ "What do you have ~ that you did not receive?"

→→ The obvious answer ~ is that ~ they received all from God ~ and had no right ~ to boast.

▷▷ My ..., ~ what do we have ~ that we did not receive?

→→ It is solely ~ because God poured out his special and undeserved favor on us ~ we are ~ what we are. ⇓⇓ **8/16**

CONTINUING TO DISCUSS HUMILITY, ~ IN PHIL. ~ 2: ~ 3, ~ PAUL EXHORTS US ~ TO consider other believers ~ as more important ~ than ourselves.

▶▶ Considering our brothers and sisters in Christ ~ as more important than ourselves ~ means ~ that we put them ~ above ourselves ~ in priority.

▷▷ They ~ come first. ⇔⇔ We ~ come last. ←← We give them ~ the place of honor.

↪↪ Their needs and concerns ~ take precedence ~ over our own.

▶▶ Obviously, ~ this is not ~ what the culture in which we live teaches.

▷▷ "Watch out for #1."

▷▷ But believers ~ are to do the exact opposite ~ of the worldly culture surrounding us.

▷▷ The people of God ~ are not ~ to be cultural. ⇔⇔ We ~ are to be ~ countercultural.

▷▷ We ~ are to be at variance ~ with the social norms ~ of this fallen world.

▷▷ Our way of life and set of attitudes ~ are to be different ~ than the prevailing way of life and set of attitudes ~ of this present evil age.

▷▷ We're citizens of heaven ~~ and are to live ~ the way citizens of heaven should.

NOW, ~ IN ADDITION TO HUMILITY ~ BEING WELL-MATCHED WITH ~ and appropriate for ~ our new nature, ~~ Peter gives us another reason ~ to be humble.

▶▶ 1 Pet. 5:5b. ~~ God opposes the proud ~~ but gives grace ~ to the humble. ↓↓ 9/16

▶▶ The word for ~ "proud" ~ describes someone ~ who ~ overestimates himself ~ and brags about his merits, ~ while despising others ~ and treating them with contempt.

▷▷ Hence, ~ the person is ~ arrogant ~ haughty.

▶▶ This type of person ~ God opposes.

▷▷ The arrogant, ~ haughty person ~ meets only resistance from God.

↪↪ He works ~ against the proud ~ and causes their plans ~ not ~ to succeed.

▶▶ In contrast, ~ God ~ favors, ~ helps, ~ and is on the side of ~ the humble.

▶▶ So, ~ a very good reason ~ not ~ to be proud.

RETURNING TO VERSE 12c, ~ WE SEE THE FOURTH EXAMPLE ~ OF WHAT WE ARE TO embrace & practice. ⇔⇔ Meekness.

UNFORTUNATELY, ~ THE WORD MEEKNESS ~ CAN BE MISINTERPRETED.

▶▶ Because ~ in contemporary English, ~ the word can be used ~ to speak of ~ a person lacking in spirit and courage ~ or ~ a person who is easily imposed on.

▶▶ We need to challenge the notion ~ that meekness means ~ taking on ~ a "doormat" personality, ~ allowing oneself ~ to be trampled on.

▶▶ It was after all ~ "gentle Jesus meek and mild" ~ who expelled the money changers from the temple ~ with a whip of cords.

▷▷ He never permitted anyone ~ to trample on him. ↯↯ 10/16

MEEKNESS ~ IS NOT ~ A QUALITY ~ OF WEAKNESS.

▶▶ It is not ~ cowardice, ~ timidity, ~ or lack of confidence.

▶▶ The Greek word ~ means ~ strength under control.

▶▶ In addition, ~ we should add ~ some things that meekness ~ is the opposite of.

▷▷ Meekness is the opposite of ~ harshness, ~ a grasping spirit, ~ vengefulness, ~ self-promotion, ~ self-importance, ~ self-glorification, ~ and lack of self-control.

JESUS ~ IS THE SUPREME EXAMPLE ~ OF MEEKNESS.

▶▶ Jesus, ~ being God, ~ is all-powerful.

▷▷ But His omnipotence ~ is totally under control.

▶▶ We see this displayed ~ in His suffering ~ and in His death on the cross.

▷▷ In [1 Pet. 2:23a](#), ~ Peter writes, ~ "When he was reviled, ~ he did not revile in return."

↪↪ Jesus was verbally abused throughout his trials and crucifixion.

→→ But ~ no matter how many insults ~ were thrown at Him, ~ He ~ did not throw insults ~ back at them.

↪↪ In fact, ~ He accepted their insults ~ in silence.

▷▷ In [1 Pet. 2:23b](#), ~ Peter writes, ~ "when he suffered, ~ he did not threaten." ↯↯ 11/16

↪↪ Jesus was subjected to severe physical sufferings.

→→ He was ~ struck in the face, ~ spit on, ~ beaten, ~ crowned with thorns, ~ forced to carry His cross, ~ and crucified.

↪↪ Yet, ~ through it all ~ He never ~ threatened retaliation ~ on His persecutors.

↪↪ It seems ~ that it was common in Jesus' time ~ for the one being executed ~ to cry out for vengeance ~ and ~ to threaten his executioners.

→→ But Jesus ~ did not do this.

↪↪ He could have.

→→ And He certainly ~ had the power ~ to back up any threats He made.

↪↪ He could have destroyed them ~ just by using a word.

↪↪ Instead, ~ he kept His absolute power under control ~ and forgave ~ all of His persecutors and executioners.

▶▶ And we, ~ his people, ~ the sheep of his pasture, ~ are to follow suit.

▷▷ We are not ~ to be ~ resentful ~ or ~ seek retaliation at injustices.

▷▷ We are not ~ to be ~ arrogant ~ or ~ self-assertive.

▷▷ We, ~ are, ~ just as Jesus did, ~ to exercise ~ self-control ~ in our relationships with our brothers and sisters in Christ. **↴↴ 12/16**

▷▷ We ~ are ~ to display ~ a gentleness in attitude and behavior ~ toward our fellow believers.

▷▷ And ~ we are ~ to be ~~ courteous, ~~ considerate, ~~ and ~ willing to waive our own rights ~ in our dealings with our fellow believers.

THE WORLD RIDICULES MEEKNESS.

▶▶ It is said ~ that most of the world's literature ~ has exalted the conquering hero ~ who refuses to submit ~ ↴↴

▷▷ and who exerts ~ his or her interests ~ against anyone ~ who might challenge those interests.

▶▶ Most cultures, ~ it's been noted, ~ have reserved their rewards ~ ↴↴

▷▷ for people who compete successfully ~ through ~ strength of will and superior power.

▶▶ In such a context, ~ Jesus' portrait ~ ↴↴

▷▷ of the ideal disciple ~ as someone who is meek, ~~ accompanied by the promised reward ~ that such a person ~ will inherit the earth, ~ ↴↴

↵↵ is a flat contradiction ~ of conventional wisdom.

▶▶ The kingdom of Jesus ~ turns the world's wisdom on its head, ~~ and reveals it ~ for the folly ~ that it is.

AND THE FIFTH AND FINAL EXAMPLE IN VERSE 12c ~ of what godliness looks like.

PATIENCE. ↴↴ 13/16

▶▶ The patient person ~ does not get angry at others.

▷▷ Opposite ~ of resentment and revenge.

OF COURSE, ~ ¶¶

▶▶ the great biblical illustration ~ of patience in operation ~ is God himself.

SEVERAL PASSAGES IN THE OT ~ SPEAK OF HIM, ~ IN CONJUNCTION WITH OTHER gracious attributes, ~ as ~ "slow to anger."

▶▶ In a context ~ which stresses ~ Israel's rebellion and provocation of God, ~ he is contrasted ~ ¶¶

▷▷ as a God who is ~ forgiving, ~ gracious, ~ compassionate, ~ slow to anger, ~ and ~ abounding in loving-kindness (Neh. 9:17).

▶▶ In Ps. 86:15, ~ the psalmist declares, ~ ¶¶

▷▷ But you, ~ O Lord, ~ are a God ~ merciful and gracious, ~ slow ~ to anger ~ and abounding ~ in steadfast love and faithfulness.

THE NT ~ ALSO STRESSES ~ THE PATIENCE OF THE LORD.

▶▶ In Romans, ~ we see it is God's ~ kindness, ~ forbearance, ~ and patience ~ that lead people to repentance (Rom 2).

▶▶ Also in Romans, ~ we see ~ that this attribute of God ~ was seen clearly ~ in his patient enduring of Pharaoh ~ ¶¶

▷▷ who fitted himself for destruction (Rom 9). ¶¶ 14/16

▶▶Peter tells us that ~ God was patient ~ in holding off the flood for the sinners of Noah's day ~ while the ark was being built, ~ ¶¶

▷▷thereby ~ giving more time ~ for repentance (1 Pt 3:20).

▶▶And Peter also tells us ~ that the delay in Christ's return ~ is not ~ ¶¶

▷▷an indication ~ of slowness ~ on God's part, ~ but ~ of his patience, ~ not wanting anyone to perish.

IN ADDITION, ~ WE SHOULD MENTION ~ THAT THE VIRTUE OF A PATIENT SPIRIT ~ is extolled in the OT.

▶▶E.g., ~ Prov. 14: ~ 29 (CSB).

▷▷A patient person ~ shows great understanding, ~ but a quick-tempered one ~ promotes foolishness.

▶▶And in Eccles. ~ 7:~ 8b, ~ Solomon says that ~ ¶¶

▷▷the patient in spirit ~ is better ~ than the proud in spirit.

PATIENCE, ~ WHICH IS AN ATTRIBUTE OF OUR TRIUNE GOD, ~ is also ~ to characterize ~ each believer.

▶▶Paul calls for it here in Colossians, ~ as well as ~ in Ephesians and 1 Thessalonians.

▶▶We ~ should have the same patience ~ ¶¶

▷▷when dealing with our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ ~ as God has demonstrated ~ in His dealings with sinful humanity. ¶¶ 15/16

▶▶ Each of us personally ~ should look at our own lives ~ and see how God has been patient with us.

▷▷ And then ~ treat each of our fellow blood-bought believers the same, ~ ¶¶

↳↳ even when they ~ hurt us in some way ~ or offend us ~ or act obnoxiously toward us ~ or have a bad attitude toward us, ~ or whatever.

▶▶ We, ~ like our heavenly Father, ~ are to be patient.

CONCLUSION.

MY . . . , ~ ~ ¶¶

▶▶ compassionate hearts, ~ kindness, ~ humility, ~ meekness, ~ patience, ~ and everything else ~ that accords with godliness ~ ¶¶

▷▷ these ~ we are to embrace and practice ~ in our Christian lives.

LET'S PRAY 16/16