



# Small Group Guide: Putting On Christ

Based on Colossians 3:12-14

## Opening Prayer

Begin by thanking God for His love and for declaring us chosen, holy, and beloved before we do anything to earn it.

## Ice Breaker

Share a time when someone showed you unexpected compassion or kindness. How did it impact you?

## Key Scripture

*"Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, 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. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony."(Colossians 3:12-14)*

## Main Takeaways

### 1. Identity Before Activity

Before Paul gives us a list of things to pursue, he reminds us of our identity: God's chosen people, holy, and dearly loved. We work FROM this position, not FOR it.

## **2. Christ's Love Cannot Change**

You cannot do anything to make Jesus love you more than He already does, and you cannot do anything to make Him love you less. His love is dependent on His character, not your performance.

## **3. Three Attitudes Leading to Three Actions**

- **Compassion → Kindness**
- **Humility → Meekness/Gentleness**
- **Patience → Forgiveness**

## **4. Love Binds It All Together**

Love is not just a feeling—it's a verb. It's what enables us to pursue all these other qualities with purpose.

# **Discussion Questions**

### **Understanding Identity (15-20 minutes)**

1. **How does knowing you are "chosen, holy, and beloved" change the way you approach spiritual growth?** Do you tend to work FOR God's approval or FROM His approval?
2. **What is your honest response to the truth that God's love for you cannot increase or decrease?** Does this news lead you to "cheap grace" or does it compel you to live for Him?
3. **The pastor mentioned that "we can never embrace the life that Christ has for us unless we've embraced the identity that He has already pronounced over us." What does this mean practically? Where do you struggle to embrace your identity in Christ?**

### **Compassion and Kindness (15-20 minutes)**

4. **The sermon stated: "I don't think that most of us are compassionless. I think we lack the space to feel it." Do you agree? What fills your life and leaves little room for compassion?**

5. **Jesus was "moved with compassion" throughout the Gospels. When was the last time you were truly moved with compassion for someone? What did you do about it?**
6. **How can we cultivate Christ-like kindness that goes beyond being polite for an hour? What would it look like to be kind in your responses, especially when someone is unkind to you?**

### **Humility and Meekness (15-20 minutes)**

7. **The pastor said, "If there's one quality in this list that you will have to fight with your life to embrace, it's humility. Everything in us is prideful." Why is humility so difficult? Where do you see pride showing up in your life?**
8. **Nick Wallenda picks up trash after his famous high-wire walks to keep himself humble. What practical disciplines could you implement to train yourself in humility?**
9. **Meekness is defined as "strength under control," not weakness. How does this change your understanding of gentleness? Where do you need to exercise strength under control rather than unleashing your full response?**

### **Patience and Forgiveness (15-20 minutes)**

10. **Biblical patience is "the ability to take a great deal of punishment from evil people or circumstances without losing your temper, without becoming irritated and angry, without taking vengeance." Who or what is testing your patience right now?**
11. **Paul links patience directly to forgiveness. How does remembering Christ's patience with you help you forgive others?**
12. **Is there someone you need to forgive? What's holding you back? (Note: This may be sensitive—allow people to share only what they're comfortable with)**

## **Practical Application**

### **Individual Reflection**

Take 5 minutes of silence for each person to ask God:

- "Where have You already given me opportunities today to be compassionate, kind, humble, patient, meek, forgiving, and loving?"
- "Which of these qualities do I most need to pursue this week?"

### **This Week's Challenge**

Choose ONE of the following action steps:

**Option 1: Compassion Exercise** Slow down enough this week to truly listen to someone's story. Ask follow-up questions. Feel their experience. Then respond with practical help or encouragement.

**Option 2: Humility Training** Identify one specific way you can serve someone in your household, workplace, or church this week that requires you to take the low place. Do it without announcing it.

**Option 3: Forgiveness Action** Write a list of people you need to forgive (you don't have to share it). Pray through the list, asking God to help you release each person. If appropriate, reach out to reconcile with one person this week.

**Option 4: Kindness Offensive** Intentionally do or say something kind to someone every day this week—especially to someone who has been unkind to you or who you've been avoiding.

### **Accountability**

- Share with one other person in the group which option you're choosing
- Exchange contact information and check in mid-week

## **Closing Prayer**

Pray together:

- Thank God for His unchanging love
- Ask Him to open your eyes to opportunities to display these qualities
- Request His strength to pursue Christ-like character this week
- Pray for specific needs shared in the group

## **For Next Week**

Read Colossians 3:15-17 in preparation for the next discussion.