

HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS BY JESUS

October 11, 2015 Colossians 3:12-15 by Bob Branch
Staying Free, Part 4

Colossians 3:12-15 (Romans 12:18; Galatians 5:6)

BIG IDEA: Cultivating a biblical heart and mindset toward others that will play out in building healthy, enjoyable relationships.

“Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves...” **Colossians 3:12**

“Indicative precedes imperative.”

Indicatives are “something that has already been indicated or declared over you. A truth.” **David Lomas**

Out of what God has indicated and declared and done and who we are, ... we act.

WHO YOU ARE...

- You are **CHOSEN** of God.
- You are **HOLY**.
- You are **DEARLY LOVED**.

1. Dress for success... Clothe yourself in the virtues that BUILD RELATIONSHIPS rather than tear them down. (Rom. 13:14; Gal. 3:27; 1 Pet. 5:5)

- Put on **Compassion**.
- Put on **Kindness**.
- Put on **Humility**.
- Put on **Gentleness**.
- Put on **Patience**.
- Put on **Love**. *God’s kind of other-oriented love.*

EXPERIMENT: Get up 5 minutes earlier each day, and with God clothe yourself...

2. Practice BEARING and GRACING.
(Mat. 6:12, 14-15; Mk. 11:25; Eph. 4:32)

BEAR: the practice of relational endurance
(John 21:15f)

FORGIVE: Forgive is the word GRACING.

“See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.” **Hebrews 12:15**

3. Active SURRENDER makes it all work.

“**Let** the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.” **Colossians 3:15**

“**Let** the Word of God dwell in you richly...” (16)

“We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired of life itself. Indeed, we felt we had received the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead.” **2 Corinthians 1:8-9**