

**INTRODUCTION**

1. What shld Xns be really good at? Lk 24:45-47 - forgiveness. Ps 133:1
2. This AM - Eph 4:1-3 forbearance. Tonite - forgiveness - Col 3:12-15

**1st: Our Identity (12a)**

1. *Chosen of God*: defined by God - now & forever.
2. *Holy*: saints - admitted into temple - [Tit 3:5; 1Pt 2:9; 1Pt 1:15].
3. *Beloved* - Eph 1:3-6 We are loved in the Beloved: [Jn 17:26].
4. We begin w/ our identity: *in Christ*. We couldn't be more privileged. We must internalize this identity. Indicative -> imperative.

**2nd: Our Internal Disposition (v12b)**

1. Church composed of people w/ varied backgrounds - v10-11 put on *new man*; *image of God in Christ*; *created* [regenerated] *in Christ*.
  - i. distinctions of v11 were severe & stark: *Barbarian & Sythian* !?!
2. How? union w/ Jesus in His death & res - 2:20 & 3:1
  - i. language of put off & put on - 3:8,9 - v10, v12 *put on a heart...*
  - ii. *Put on*: act definitively w/ sense of urgency in rln to self: internalize
3. *Heart of compassion*: visceral pity & tenderness; sympathy. Lk 6:36
4. *Kindness*: combines moral goodness & gracious tenderness - Gal 5:22
5. *Humility*: view of self as undeserving but thankful for grace
6. *Meekness*: not self-assertive; sensitive to others. Mt 11:29; 5:5; Gal 5:23
7. *Patience*: elongated zeal - God-like [Rom 2:4] - slow to anger. Gal 5:22.

8. Danger - Xnty is not mere moralisms. These virtues are result of union w/ Christ = conforming to Christ.

**3rd: Our Interactions with One Another**

1. *Forbearing*: putting up w/ things we dislike in others.
2. *Forgiving*: excessive [2:13] quick & more-than-necessary abundant giving
3. *Whoever has a complaint against anyone*: not specific - general axiom
  - i. Disposition of forgiveness is default mode [differs from transaction of forgiveness]
  - ii. Disposition of forgiveness is an aspect of forbearance.
4. *Just as the Lord forgave you* - celebrate gospel peace [Eph 4:32; Mat 6:12]
5. *beyond all these things put on* [as the crowning adornment]: *love* - gospel-defined & fulfills Law in self-sac'al service = *the perfect bond of unity*:
  - i. *perfect* = maturity in Christ-likeness

**4th: Our Enjoyment of Christ's Rule**

1. *The peace*: 1] Inner peace & 2] Interpersonal peace; *of Christ* - Jn 14:27
2. *Rule* = Lordship: act as umpire - Christ's peace is called as the victor
3. *Called into one body* - church. We cannot mature w/o the *one* others of the church.
4. *be thankful*: worship: accept each other in worship [Rom 15:5-7] - v16.
5. Come to LT embraced by Christ & embracing each other in Christ.
  - i. 1Pt 3:8-9
  - ii. Num 6:24-26