

## God's chosen People

### Colossians 3:12-17

*Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony. And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful. Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives. Teach and counsel each other with all the wisdom he gives. Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with thankful hearts. And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father.*

As a very non-athletic kid in school I was never chosen first for any athletic endeavor. I was often not ever chosen at all. I was just assigned a team by default because I was all that was left. I was well aware of my athletic shortcomings, but it always hurt not to be chosen. Today, we might be tempted to believe the lie that we are not worth being chosen by God to be used for anything. But Colossians 3:12 tells us that we are the people God loves because He has chosen us. He is well aware of our spiritual, sinful shortcomings, but He chose us anyway. That should change the way we live.

Paul tells us very clearly that we must, **“clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.”** Just as God chose us, we must choose to do these things. We are called to, **“Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.”** He calls us to clothe ourselves with love. To let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts. To be thankful. To teach and counsel each other with wisdom. And to do all of this as a representative of Jesus. These things don't just happen. We have to choose to do them. God chose us. He chose me. He chose you. Will you now choose to do these things?

*Have you ever been chosen to do something special? What was it, and what did it feel like to be chosen? Why do you think it is so hard sometimes to do things like showing mercy, kindness, gentleness, and patience? We know our lives would be better and easier if others made allowances for our faults and forgave us. Why do we chose to do the opposite? Because God has chosen you, what will you need to change or do differently to chose to do what He is calling you to?*