

CULTIVATING CHRISTLIKE CHARACTER



PRECEPT

COLOSSIANS 3:12-14

¹²Since God chose you to be the holy people He loves, you must clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. ¹³Bearing with each other and forgiving anyone who offends you as the Lord has forgiven you. ¹⁴Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony.

PROMISE

Selfishness and pride are like termites. Unseen at first, but eventually eating away at the beams of community until the whole structure collapses. Selfishness destroys encouragement, fellowship, and all the beautiful things a community brings us. We must eliminate selfishness and keep cultivating Christlikeness together. 'Since' is a word of transformation. Since God chose you, you must be what He wants you to be. It's not trying to be chosen, holy, and loved. It's who you already are — now live like it. Character doesn't fall on us passively; it is something we put on daily by the power of the Spirit. Compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience are the five virtues that reflect Jesus' own character.

COMPASSION. Matthew 9:36 says, "Jesus was 'moved with compassion' when He saw the crowds. Compassion moves us beyond sympathy to empathy that acts.

KINDNESS. Romans 2:4 states that God's kindness leads us to repentance. Jesus embodied kindness with outsiders, children, and sinners. Kindness is love in work clothes — a smile, a helping hand, an encouraging word.

HUMILITY. Philippians 2:6-8 tells us that Jesus, though God, humbled Himself to serve and die for us. Humility is not self-hatred, but self-forgetfulness; choosing service over spotlight.

GENTLENESS. Matthew 11:29 says, "Jesus said, 'I am gentle and humble in heart.'" He had all authority, yet he chose a towel and basin to wash feet. Gentleness doesn't mean weakness — it is the ability to respond without crushing, to correct without condemning, and to influence without intimidating.

PATIENCE. Think of Jesus with His disciples — their doubts, failures, arguments — yet He patiently shaped them. Patience is giving people time to grow, to change, and grace when they fail.

2 Peter 1:8 says, "The more you go on in this way, the more you will grow strong spiritually and become fruitful and useful to our Lord Jesus Christ." When we develop Christlike character, the more unified and connected we are, the more protected we will be in our life group. We are not just shaping our own character, but we are shaping the culture of our church. In unison, we become a living testimony that Jesus is alive in us, our Life Group, and our church.

PRACTICE

1. **Cultivate.** How do you help drawing people closer to Christ? Are you showing up faithfully and encouraging others?

2. **Christlike character.** Which area do you need improving? And how can we pray/encourage you regarding this?

PRAYER

I. Healing

- We lift up those in need of God's healing touch. May they have comfort and restoration.

II. Families

- Pray for protection from harm and discord and may homes be filled with love and joy.

III. Strength

- Pray that He may grant us the strength we need in our everyday lives.

IV. Giving

- May we selflessly and sacrificially give to those underprivileged and in need.

V. Peace

- May the Lord grant us peace, and guide our steps in the way of peace.

VI. Joy

- May God fill our hearts with joy that overflows, even in the midst of challenges.

VII. Direction

- Seek the Lord for guidance, and divine wisdom as we set our goals this year.