

I. Introducing the Study:

I have already suggested the basic idea and don't feel a necessity to repeat it. But the general aspects may be seen in Colossians 3:8, 10 and the idea of walking in the world is just that of one's everyday activities: working, going to the store, driving on the highway, chasing children (or a golf ball) and just living in general in a societal relationship. The thought of wearing the garments of grace is linked closely to the concept of the new person. When we trusted Christ and were born into the family of God we were, very factually, "new creations". The thought now is that we should demonstrate that status by showing the "new man", *the persons that we are in Christ rather than the persons we were in the unregenerate world*. It is not a hard thought but it is something that we may easily not think about and may show attitudes and patterns of behavior that are not compatible with what the Lord has done for us. Well, the following represents my thinking on the subject as I entertained it in 1998.

II. Discussion: In putting on the new man,

A. Wear and attitude of love (vv12-14)

Love is that which unselfishly seeks what is best for others in the will of God. Love makes us whole or complete (14) and since we are "holy and beloved" (12) it is our privilege to show love and all the graces that accompany it (12) to the world about us. The great love attitudes are sketched in v 13 and it is apparent that we are delivered from a lot of the maligning, grudge holding, evil thinkings of our society that are so common at every level. Our moods and tenses should be under the government of love and while that does not make us totally passive in the course of life, it does make us understanding, thoughtful, prayerful, and considerate I hate to try to tell you how uncommon these things are but they should mark the believer and one should display them not with some boastful statement but with the simple process of living them out.

B. Show the spiritual truths (vv15-16)

The three things that dominate in these verses are peace, thankfulness, and praise. The originate in calling and are articulated in the Word of God. If the reality of these things grip our hearts it will not be a problem to share them with