

“And above all these things *put on* charity”

Thursday, March 28, 2013

Colossians 3:12-17

Colossians 3:12-17 Put on therefore, **as the elect of God**, holy and beloved, *bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;* (13) *Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another*, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also *do* ye. (14) **And above all these things *put on* charity, which is the bond of perfectness.** (15) And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. (16) Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. (17) And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

The Central Thought

The Word that I received from the Lord this morning was that — Above every thing else that is listed in the above verses, **“Charity”** (which is the most important to our Lord Jesus, and therefore — ought to be to us as well), is that we cloth ourselves in the love of God.

The Word **“Charity”** here is an old English word for **“Love”**. And the root Word that this Word “Charity” comes from is a Greek Word, which is the Word **“Agape”**.

“Agape”, of all the different forms and levels of love, is the highest form of **“Love”** — **“Agape”** is the form of love that literally lays down its life for someone or something else.

“Agape” is the God kind of “Love”.

In other words, above all the things listed in the Holy Scriptures above, that we are looking at today — *bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;* (13) *Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another*, **“Charity” is what God says must be first!** — 1 Corinthians 13:8a **“Charity never faileth: ...”** — John 15:12-13 **This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.** (13) **Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.**

A Second Thought

The term used here is to **“Put On Charity”**. — ***Like putting on a coat.*** The Idea that we can “Put On” anything, implies that (1) We do have the “Ability” (2) We do have a command from God. (3) We do have to exercise our wills to obey (4) We need Charity to succeed in anything that God asks us to do. — **Cloth yourselves in the “God Kind” of Love!**

“Charity never faileth: ...”