SERMON **Col 3:12** Put on Healthy Relationships January 7, 2018

Read **COL 3:12-3:17**

Christ is at the center:

V15 peace of Christ.

V16 word of Christ.

V17 in the name of Christ.

**God’s gracious love toward us is the motivation of Our gracious love toward others.**

**POINT 1. God’s gracious love towards us.**

A comforting doctrine.

Objections to being chosen (election)

1.) seems to deny our “free will”

2.) seems unfair – God so loved the whole world, (Jn 3:16) why are only some saved?

3.) seems to go against God saying He desires that all be saved. (1 Tom 2:4)

 Reply:

1.) would **not** be based **grace alone**, but on something good/righteous -namely faith- he saw in us.

 \* Rom 3:10, 3:23…

2.) presumes an **ability** **to believe in Christ**-overcome our sin nature- contradicts numerous passages

 \* John 6:44 No one can come unless Father draws Him

 \* 1 Cor 1:30 You are in Christ b/c of Him

\* Rom 8:7-8 will obey God’s law, in fact they cannot

(See Luke 10:21-22; John 6:65; 8:43; Rom 9:16-18; 1 Cor. 2:14; 2 Cor. 4:4).

3.) Choosing based on foreseen faith **violates His sovereign will**- His eternal plan is not based on what sinful people decide to do – but everything working according to the counsel of His will. (Eph 1:11).

Saved by grace alone through faith alone – and faith is a gift (Eph 2:8)

**Why a great comfort?** God always accomplishes His sovereign purposes:

Phil 1:6, Rom 8:29 Called-> glorified.

**POINT 2. Our gracious love toward others.**

**1. Compassionate Hearts**

Luke 10:33 Good Samaritan He had compassion

Luke 15:20 Prodigal son Father ‘felt compassion on him”

Luke 7:13 Widow of Nain- had compassion on her…

Matt 9:36 Had compassion harassed, helpless and sheep w/o shepherd

Matt 14:14 before feeding 5,000 – “had compassion on them, healed their sick”

(disciples said “send them away!”

**2. Kindness**

Joseph Genesis 52:15-21 –

Luke 6:35 -God is kind to the evil and ungrateful.

Rom 2:14- Kindness of God designed to lead to repentance.

1 Peter 2:1-3 -tasting God’s kindness motivate us to grow in word/ salvation.

**3. Humility**

Proper assessment of ourselves (Rom 12:3)

Thinks more highly of others / Looks to the interests of others. (Phil 2:3-4; 5-11)

**4. Meekness**

Strength under control/submission; Of Greek dr. /broken bone – only enough force to bring healing (setting bone). In Relationships - Strong to lovingly confront, but enough to bring healing. (Gal 6:1, 2 Tim 2:25)

**5. Patience.**

‘remaining tranquil awaiting an outcome’ (BDAG)

Fruits of the Spirit – Kind, patient, gentle (Gal 5:22-23)

Lord’s servant – kind, patient, gentle (2 Tim 2:25)

It means being tolerant of **imperfections**, **differences** and **faults** in others.

The patient person gives others **time** to **change** and room to **make** **mistakes** in the process.

**Application**

1. Does the doctrine of election give you comfort or cause you

to struggle? If a struggle, how can you grow in this for God’s glory?

2. How does this doctrine provide grace motivated steps toward healthy relationships?

3. Which of the 5 biblical virtues do you most need to work on the most?

How will you work on it? Invite someone to walk with you.

4. Is there someone that one these qualities applied in your soul with fresh faith would help make for a healthier relationship?

**NOTES:**

