

PUT OFF AND PUT ON
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"But now ye also put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds." Col 3:8 &9. "Put on therefore, as the elect of God, Holy and beloved bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, long suffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye." Col.3:12&13.

The other day as I was changing clothing the Lord brought to my mind these scriptures. The Bible tells us definite things we should put off, and other things we should put on. Let's consider some in the next few minutes and obey the commands of God concerning them. First, we will consider some a Christian should put off. **(1). Anger:** *"Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor and evil speaking, be put away from you with all malice."* Eph. 4: 31. Although God does not condemn anger toward evil, He does warn us not to be angry with each other. This can represent a large problem in our homes and even in our church. Growing youths have to learn to control their anger among others. Parents must be careful not to become angry with the antics of their growing teens and each other. The cloak of anger can dampen your walk with God, and influence with others. Learn to show a cool head and measured words in every situation. **(2). Wrath:** *"Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath."* Eph. 4:26. Again, one can be angry with sin and wrong doings, but they are not to possess you until days of wrath will follow. Wrath develops from increased anger and

becomes very serious to your well being and others. Avoid letting anger grow to simmering wrath which will explode in crisis, and make you ashamed with your response. Strive to keep your cool. **(3). Slander:** *"He that hideth hatred with lying lips, and he that uttereth a slander, is a fool.* Prov. 10:18. You need to be very careful what you say about others. It is so easy to say, "I don't want to gossip but..." Often things said are not true, and often stretched for judgmental appeal. As a boy my mother taught me, "If you can't say something good about a person then say nothing." That is very good advice to anyone who wants to get along with others. **(4). Blasphemy:** *"But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth."* Col. 3:8. Never allow ridicule of great eternal things escape from your lips. The Lord's name is to never be used in vain and hell is a place and not a curse word. Any rejection of God's will and things eternal taken lightly, will produce an evil effect upon your thinking and testimony. The glories of God are not to be ridiculed and rejected. **(5). Dirty Language:** *"But now ye also put off all of these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth."* Col 3:8. The entertainment of the world is full of filthy communication. This is a battle we must fight daily. Remember your eyes are the window of your soul, so don't look at anything that uses it and never repeat anything that is filthy with your lips. Keep the words of your mouth acceptable before the Lord. **(6). Lying:** *"Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbor: for we are members one of another."* Eph. 4:25. Know the truth and the truth will set you free. We dwell in a lying, fact twisting age, in which truth is ridiculed by the lost. We who are saved should be known for truth in our words and actions. Truthful word ability can be your greatest ability. Many scriptures teach, Lie not at all. Be truthful in all you do and say. This does not

exhaust the list of "take offs," but lets look at some things to "put on". **(1). Mercy:** *"Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy."* Matt. 5:7. Mercy is something very little mentioned in our confused world. There are not enough words to speak of the mercy of God in giving His Son to die for our sins. We in like manner should be willing to shew our loving care for others around us. Don't be so zealous in demanding for yourself over assisting others in their problems. We live in a much troubled world that demands justice and seldom thinks of mercy. Showing mercy can go far in enhancing your life and testimony before others. It feels good to show you really care as you live among others. **(2). Kindness:** *"Put on therefore as the elect of God, holy and beloved bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering."* Col. 3:12. In the midst of your busy lives be sure to look around and show kindness to others. Every church has older folks who need help, and the younger can be such a blessing. You can bring in wood or perhaps some meals to help lift their daily load. At age 84 I am beginning to see the blessing of this as our church friends have stood beside us. Keep your eyes out for the sick and for the widows of your church and extend acts of love to them. It will not only lift their spirits but help you to be a willing helper of others and happy in doing so. **(3). Humility:** *"Likewise ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble."* I Pet. 5:5. Nothing shines brighter than the saints of God as they humbly live in these trying days. Pride always goes before a fall, but humility is great attire for a gracious, caring believer. The proud look right over the needy and miss great joy in humble service to them. **(4). Gentleness:** *"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith."* Gal 5:22. We must not be self pleasing, pushy,

pride gushing, but rather humble servants of God. A very proud person is always a very unhappy person inside. Jesus showed humility in all He did, and we are commanded to be like Him. Love the down trodden and help those who suffer problems in their daily lives. A kind question, "Where do you hurt and how may I help," will be to many like manna from heaven. Major in gentleness and God will bless you beyond words. **(5). Patience:** *"Bring forth fruit with patience."* Luke 8:15c. Someone has said, patience is the easiest thing to lose. Certainly there is a need for calm acceptance in all that is good. Some will struggle to do right, but be patient and understand their struggle. We all have strong opinions and sometimes are too pushy for action. Patience is crucial in raising children and steering teens. It is a great attribute to show to others, and evidences great progress in Christian growth. **(6). Forgiveness:** *"For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you."* Matt. 6:14. Again I have heard to forgive is divine. It is impossible to live without problems and misunderstandings, and yes mistakes cropping up in our relationships. A wise believer will not let pride keep him from saying, "I am sorry." A long kept grudge can be like a cancer to your life. Failure to forgive will limit how you live. He forgave us and we must forgive others. **(7). Love:** *"And to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love his neighbor as himself, is more than all burnt offerings and sacrifices."* Mark 12:33. A great song writer listed the Love of God as the greatest thing ever given. We who know its glory need to pass it on to everyone we meet. It is beyond measure, and will meet every need of mankind. Our world has become a bitter angry place, but we are to be examples of loving towards God and all those around us. I hope God will use this message to help you shed evil and clothe properly to please God..