

Series: Making the Holidays Holy Days; *Sermon:* **Three**
Delivered by: **Dr. Josh Moody**, senior pastor; *Date:* **December 9, 2018**

Bible Text explored: Colossians 3: 12-17

¹²Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, ¹³bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. [ESV]

Review and application:

1. What aspects of the Christmas holidays make it a challenging time for some?
What, according to this sermon mini-series, could resolve these negative influences?
What is holiness, and how does it differ from legalism?
2. What (*Col. 3:1*) is the new life reality that empowers us to make the season holy?
What "taking off" step in this change-of-wardrobe process (*Col. 3:9*, considered last week) comes first?
3. What "putting on" step (*vv. 12-14*) should follow naturally?
What actions of God provide us with confidence to dress in this distinctive wardrobe?
4. Consider this new set of "virtues clothes." How could you go about putting on . . .
 - . . . a compassionate (caring) heart?
 - . . . kindness?
 - . . . humility?
 - . . . meekness (or quiet strength)?
 - . . . patience?Which item might you target to work on in the year ahead?
5. Why is forgiving those who have wronged or offended you so hard?
What realization should overcome our reluctance?
6. Why is love the ultimate Christian virtue?
7. *Paul lays out three principles for living in the church community.*
How (*v. 15*) do you yield some of your own preferences as you submit to the rule of the peace of Christ?
How much (*v. 16*) do you really think about Scripture or hum hymns or choruses during the week?
Does avoiding what would discredit Jesus (*v. 17*) figure in how you relate to others?
8. Today's passage suggests one way you could blunt the commercial thrust of the holidays: Make a list of things you're thankful for. Then watch to see how your contentment quotient rises.