



*“The Ultimate Challenge  
of the Christian Life”  
Part 2*

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3 Motivations for living for Christ:

I. God **CHOSE** me. (v.12a)

II. God set me **APART** . (v.12b)

*Holy / Hagios = pure, sinless, upright, holy; physically pure  
and morally blameless.*

III. God **LOVES** me. (v.12c-14)

**My Next Steps This Week...**

- With the understanding that God has not just saved me from sin, but to be holy, I will spend at least 20 minutes a day in prayer and Bible study.
- I will study the “8 Essential Virtues” (found on the back of this sermon notes page) and look up the scripture references .
- I will find a practical way of expressing God’s love to those around me (an act of service, sharing my testimony, note of encouragement, etc.)
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**EIGHT ESSENTIAL VIRTUES**

These virtues each have three aspects: how people deal with others, how they view themselves ,and how they react to their treatment by others.

**1. Compassion** – Shows sensitivity to those suffering and in need. The Greek word literally means “bowels,” because the Greeks located the seat of emotions not in the heart but in the intestines. Being compassionate is a way of life, not a temporary reaction to certain experiences (Phil. 1:7-11). Compassion was one main reason Jesus healed people (Matt. 9:36).

**2. Kindness** – Manifests itself in a sweet disposition and thoughtful interpersonal dealings. Because we are saved by God’s kindness toward us through Christ (Ephesians 2:7; Titus 3:4), we are commanded to extend kindness to others.

**3. Humility** – Means having a realistic view of ourselves, not thinking too highly of ourselves but considering ourselves lowly – because we are. Jesus is the greatest example of humility and one we should strive to emulate (Phil.2:1-11)

**4. Gentleness** – Means not behaving harshly, arrogantly or self-assertively but with consideration for others. In biblical and other ancient literature, this word is “meekness”; meekness is not weakness. This word was used to describe a soothing wind, a healing medicine, and a colt that had been broken. In each instance, there is power: a wind can become a storm; too much medicine can kill; a horse can break loose. But this power is under control (2 Tim.2:22-26). The meek person has the ability to control his power/actions and use them wisely.

**5. Patience** – The quality of being long-suffering, self- restraining. Short-tempered people act impulsively and often regret their actions. People who are longsuffering are able to control themselves just like Christ (1 Tim.1:15-17). The following two qualities expand on the thought of patience.

**6. Forbearing/Bear with each other** – Means putting up with difficult people or situations and enduring discomfort. Holding back judgment as God holds back His judgment (Romans 2:4; 3:25). Understanding that God has a reason and purpose for everything in life and choosing to respond in a godly way.

**7. Forgiving** – Involves not holding a grudge or grievance. Forgiveness is Christ-like (Ephesians 4:32). When we feel wronged by another person, our first thought should be forgiveness. We should go to that person and seek reconciliation (Matthew 18:15-35).

**8. Love** – Means doing what is best for another person. Love is the most important Christian virtue. It is the virtue that Christ said distinguished His followers from the world as well as how the world would know who His followers were (John 14:34-35). Paul wrote to the Ephesians about putting on armor but here he speaks of ordinary clothing, with love the last mentioned. Love is the “girdle” or the belt that holds it all together, completing and perfecting our spiritual clothing.