

Series: How Does A Passionate Christ-follower Live?
Message: A Passionate Christ-follower Behaves Differently
Col 3:5-17

Intro

- Last week we talked about some things we needed to get rid of (5-11) and how to have victory over these things
- We talked about replacement theology -- replacing the wrong things with the right things
- This week we want to zero in on those things that are to be in our lives that when exhibited will point people to Christ
- True revival comes to the church when we not only stop doing what God doesn't want in our lives but when we start doing what God wants us to do in life

1. **Improper behavior** 5-11

2. **How can we live in victory?**

3. **Proper behavior** 12-17

A. We behave properly because of who we are 12a

1. We are God's chosen people
 - a. Chosen – select
 - b. Believers have been selected by God to be a part of His family
 - c. Why did God choose us to be in His family?
 1. Only one answer will do, He loved us
 2. The example of Israel Deut 7:7-8 "The LORD did not set his affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples. But it was because the LORD loved you"
 - d. I will never understand why God chose me, I can only be eternally grateful that He did
2. We are holy
 - a. Holy – sacred; set apart
 - b. God not only chose us, He set us apart for Himself
 - c. We belong exclusively to God. I am God's child
 - d. We are different from those who have never accepted Christ and so God has a different expectation of us 1 Cor 6:19-20 "You are not your

own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body"

3. We are dearly loved

- a. This is the love God showed at the cross, a love that denies self for the benefit of those who are loved
- b. While all people are loved by God (Jn 3:16), He has a special love for His children
- c. God loved us and now we are the special objects of His love 1 Jn 3:1 "How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!"

4. One of the purposes in God choosing us, setting us apart and loving us is that we might be like His Son Rom 8:29 "For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son"

- a. God is most glorified in me when I am most like His Son
- b. How can I be like His Son? It begins with clothing ourselves with the characteristics listed in the following verses, for these are the characteristics of God, Himself

B. What is proper behavior for a Christian? 12b-17

1. We are to possess loving attitudes towards others 12-14
 - a. We are to be compassionate
 1. Compassion – pity; mercy; sympathy
 2. It is not only compassion, it is to have a heart of compassion; a deep gut-level feeling of compassion
 3. It is to see the needs of others and be moved so deeply that we do something to meet the need
 4. The example of Jesus Mt 14:14 "When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick"
 5. When we see the sick, the hurting, the poor, people in need, we cannot be unmoved, we must do something
 - b. We are to be kind
 1. Kind – a gentle, gracious spirit

2. This is a gentleness in dealing with others, never being harsh and abrasive
 3. It is going out of our way to help others, even if we are inconvenienced – the good Samaritan
 4. God's kindness has delivered us from sin Rom 2:4 "Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness leads you toward repentance?"
- c. We are to be humble
1. Humble – modest opinion of yourself
 2. This is not thinking you are better than others, it is thinking of others more highly than yourself
 3. When I am humble I will serve others instead of demanding to be served
 4. I will not insist on my rights and doing things my way when I am humble, instead I will listen to others and consider what is best for all
 5. Humility is having a proper view of yourself Rom 12:3 "Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you"
 6. Jesus is the ultimate portrayal of humility Phil 2:5-8 "Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross!"
 7. If Jesus was willing to humble Himself for us, we should be willing to humble ourselves for others
- d. We are to be gentle
1. Gentleness – meekness; power under control
 2. Gentleness is being willing to take a wrong instead of inflicting wrong on others
3. Gentleness is the opposite of arrogance and self-assertiveness; it considers the rights and feelings of others; it accepts God's dealings with us as good, instead of resisting what God is doing
 4. When I am gentle I don't look for ways to retaliate or get even, I look to put healing medicine on the wound
 5. I will look for ways to resolve a conflict quietly, rather than letting others know I was wronged
 6. Jesus again is our model Mt 11:29 "Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls"
- e. We are to be patient
1. A patient person doesn't get angry with others; he puts up with annoying people and circumstances without losing his cool
 2. Patient people don't explode when waiting for a train and they are late, when you have two items in the check out lane and you are stuck behind a person with a full cart, when another driver cuts you off, or when your toddler wants you to read the same book for the 10th time today
 3. You exhibit patience when people hurt you and you respond with grace. That is what God did for us
 4. God is patient with people today 2 Pet 3:9 "The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance"
- f. We are to bear with others 13
1. This involves putting up with things we dislike in others; not retaliating in the face of persecution; to endure the wrongs others do to us
 2. The example of Jesus 1 Pet 2:23 "When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly"

3. In our day, we want to get even, to settle the score, but Jesus left everything up to the Father. We would do well to follow that example today
- g. We are to be forgiving 13
 1. This means to forgive freely and completely
 2. To forgive someone means that we will never bring the offense up to them in a negative way again. The matter is over and done with
 3. When we have a disagreement with our spouse, our children, or our parents we won't bring up past offenses and failures; we won't keep a record of the wrongs others have done to us
 4. Jesus forgave us, therefore we can forgive others
 - a. My sin against God was the greatest offense there could ever be and if God could forgive me, I can certainly forgive others
 - b. God's forgiveness has caused Him to forget my sins Heb 10:17 "Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more."
- h. We are to be loving 14
 1. Love is the thing that ties all of these together
 2. Love causes us to carry out all of these virtues in a way that brings unity to the body of Christ
 3. If I am loving, I will be forgiving, able to bear with others, patient, gentle, humble, kind and compassionate
- i. How do I get these things in my life? Vs 15-17 that we will talk about next week

Questions

- When God sees you interacting with others, does He see you acting just like His Son?
- Are there any of these characteristics that you know are out of harmony with what God expects?
- What are you going to do to change so that you can start exhibiting these characteristics?
- Would you have the courage to ask someone who will be honest with you if these characteristics are evident in your life?