

It's Not That Hard

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.
Colossians 3:12

How often do we here or talk about how hard it is to live the Christian life? When one is baptized we fear that when they face the trials of life, they may slip away. To help prevent this, we drill into the new Christian that Satan will begin to do his dirtiest work and warn them that living a Christian life is not easy. I agree that new Christians need to understand that not all will be a bed of roses, but I do not want to scare them so much that they turn and run out of fear.

What about the joy of salvation and the change Jesus has made in my life? Consider how this change effects how I treat others. In the passage quoted above there are five things we can do that will make a world of difference in relationships. These are **C**ompassion, **K**indness, **H**umility, **G**entleness and **P**atience. Before he writes this, Paul instructs us to “clothe” ourselves. This gives us the idea that we are completely covered. Paul uses this same phraseology in Galatians 3:27 where he writes, “...for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.” When we become children of God we are not partial children but completely a part of the family. If I clothe myself with the characteristics of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience, the idea is that I always put these into practice, especially when it is difficult.

Imagine what it would be like if all Christians made a commitment to practice these five items in every single relationship. Jesus taught us treat others the way we want to be treated. We call it the Golden Rule. (Matthew 7:12) If we are not abiding by this teaching, perhaps we need to take a long, hard look at who is in control of our life. In Galatians 2:20 we read, “I no longer live, but Christ lives in me.” There is great joy in salvation. We have reason to celebrate every day. Let's encourage each other to put into practice the things the Lord wants us to do: **C**ompassion, **K**indness, **H**umility, **G**entleness and **P**atience.