



# PWOC

*Protestant Women of the Chapel*

## **WORKSHOP: "DRESSED" for SUCCESS**

### ***Being like Christ in our Relationships***

by Julie McCammon

### **PARTICIPANT'S GUIDE**

**RELEVANCE:** To be in relationship with others is to experience friction. This is especially true in close relationships- marriage being the most obvious example, but also friendships and roles in leadership (i.e. serving on a PWOC team or board). It is essential to have God's perspective for our interaction with others. Applying the grace of God through compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, forgiveness and love makes for rich marriages, friendships and unforgettable working relationships.

### ***I. TRASH CAN CLOTHES VS. THE LOADED CREDIT CARD***

The Apostle Paul tells the Colossians to "put off" the old and "put on" the new- to get rid of the wardrobe of the old life; the life without Christ. When Christians are "dressing" themselves in anger or slander, it just doesn't make sense...it's not flattering, it's not reflective of their new life in Christ. That old wardrobe has got to go!

- *Colossians 3:1-14.*
- *Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.*  
–Colossians 3:5
- *But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander and filthy language from your lips.* –Colossians 3:8



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- *Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. –Colossians 3:12*
- Jesus Christ paid an awful price that we could never afford to clothe us in His best. The credit card is loaded- the price is already paid. We've got to decide if we're going to wear the new clothes or if we'd rather go trash digging to put on what feels more familiar.

## ACTIVITY:

The two separate lists in Colossians 3:8 and 3:12 give a bird's-eye view of what it looks like to be dressed in our old or our new "clothes." The individual descriptors on the lists are not meant to go toe-to-toe as opposites, but collectively paint the picture of the old and the new. For example, "anger" on the first list is not meant to be the opposite of "compassion" on the second list. Keep that in mind as we do this activity.

Work in a group of 3-4 (or with a partner if there are fewer participants). You will be assigned a brief scenario along with a descriptor from the first list in verse 8 (the "old wardrobe") as well as a descriptor from the second list in verse 12 (the "new wardrobe"). These are not meant to be opposite outcomes- just two different approaches to the same scenario.

**Directions:** Read the scenario. Come up with a couple sentences that would describe what the response could look like wearing an article of clothing from the old wardrobe (Col. 3:8). Then describe what the response to the same scenario might look like in a piece of our new clothing (Col. 3:12). Use the definitions of the words below (based on the Greek) to help form your answers regarding how that descriptor would "behave" in any given situation.

- **Scenario 1:** Your husband was supposed to be home by 6:00pm so that you could make it out the door by 6:15 for your important meeting. It's now 6:10 and he just called to say he'll be at least 15 more minutes due to a last-minute situation that popped up at work. You are standing there in your heels with your purse over your shoulder and keys in your hand. How do you behave?
  - Old wardrobe: **Rage-**
  - New wardrobe: **Compassion-**



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- **Scenario 2:** Your PWOC reserved a room at the chapel well in advance. Now the chaplain assistant is telling you that it is needed for another event and PWOC will have to figure something else out. The chaplain assistant is waiting for you to say something. How do you behave?
  - Old wardrobe: **Malice-**
  - New wardrobe: **Patience-**
  
- **Scenario 3:** Someone you thought was your friend has been talking behind your back and spreading rumors about you. Another friend has brought this to your attention. You are standing face-to-face with the person who just delivered this information. How do you behave?
  - Old wardrobe: **Slander-**
  - New wardrobe: **Kindness-**
  
- **Scenario 4:** A fellow PWOC board member seems to be in constant competition with you. She feels the need to point out how much more experience and expertise she has, implying that she is far more qualified to serve on the board than you are. You are in a group with 3 other board members when she again makes a comment of this nature. You feel embarrassed. How do you behave?
  - Old wardrobe: **Filthy language-**
  - New wardrobe: **Gentleness-**
  
- **Scenario 5:** You are 1VP of Spiritual Life. Your team has met and decided on the Bible studies for the Fall. The board has approved the titles you have chosen. All that's left to do is place the order, which is ready to go, pending chaplain approval. You show the list to your PWOC Chaplain Sponsor and s/he is not comfortable with two of your choices. You barely have enough time to submit your purchase order request as it is. Now you have to go back to the drawing board. You are still sitting in the chaplain's office alongside one of your team members. How do you behave?
  - Old wardrobe: **Anger-**
  - New wardrobe: **Humility-**



## Old Wardrobe (Colossians 3:8) Definitions from the Greek:

- **Anger** *orge* (or-**gay**)- Agitation of the soul; indignation; taking offense; wrath as the outburst of a vengeful mind; indicates a more enduring state of mind-perpetual anger.
- **Rage/** wrath *thumos* (thoo-**mos**)- A more temporary, but perhaps more explosive anger; outburst; temper; fierce indignation.
- **Malice-** *kakia* (kak-**ee**-ah)- Ill will; desire to injure; hateful feeling; hostility; malicious behavior.
- **Slander/** blasphemy *blasphemia* (blas-fay-**me**-ah)- Abusive language; speech injurious to another's good name.
- **Filthy language/** abusive speech *aischrologia* (ahee-skhol-og-**ee**-ah)- Foul mouth; vile conversation; shameful words coming out of the mouth; obscene language; filthy communication.

## New Wardrobe (Colossians 3:12) Definitions from the Greek:

- **Compassion-** *oiktirmos* (oyk-tir-**mos**)- Mercy; pity; compassion shown in suffering of others.
- **Kindness-** *chrēstotēs* (khray-**stot**-ace)- Goodness- describes one's disposition more than their actions; the opposite of *apotomia* which is severity or cutting something short and quickly<sup>1</sup>; It is the grace which pervades the whole nature, mellowing all which would have been harsh and austere.<sup>2</sup>
- **Humility-** *tapeinophrosynē* (tap-i-nof-ros-**oo**-nay)- Humbleness of mind; Having a humble opinion of one's self; a deep sense of one's (moral) littleness; modesty;

<sup>1</sup>Zodhiates, Spiros: *The Complete Word Study Dictionary : New Testament*. electronic ed. Chattanooga, TN : AMG Publishers, 2000, c1992, c1993, S. G5544

<sup>2</sup>Zodhiates, Spiros: *The Complete Word Study Dictionary : New Testament*. electronic ed. Chattanooga, TN : AMG Publishers, 2000, c1992, c1993, S. G5544



lowliness of mind.<sup>3</sup> The esteeming of ourselves small, inasmuch as we are so, the correct estimate of ourselves.<sup>4</sup>

- **Gentleness/** meekness- *prautēs* (prah-oo-tace)- Meekness; mildness of disposition; gentleness of spirit. [Gentleness] is an inwrought grace of the soul, and the expressions of it are primarily toward God. It is with that attitude of spirit we accept God's dealings with us as good and do not dispute or resist.<sup>5</sup>

*Prautēs* is not readily expressed in English since the term "meekness" suggests weakness, but it is a condition of mind and heart which demonstrates gentleness, not in weakness, but in power. It is a balance born in strength of character.<sup>6</sup>

- **Patience/** longsuffering *makrothymia* (mak-roth-oo-mee-ah)- Patience specifically with people more so than circumstances; endurance, steadfastness, perseverance; slowness in avenging wrongs; self-restraint before proceeding to action; associated with mercy.

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<sup>3</sup>Strong, James: *The Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible : Showing Every Word of the Text of the Common English Version of the Canonical Books, and Every Occurrence of Each Word in Regular Order.* electronic ed. Ontario : Woodside Bible Fellowship., 1996, S. G5012

<sup>4</sup>Zodhiates, Spiros: *The Complete Word Study Dictionary : New Testament.* electronic ed. Chattanooga, TN : AMG Publishers, 2000, c1992, c1993, S. G5012

<sup>5</sup>Zodhiates, Spiros: *The Complete Word Study Dictionary : New Testament.* electronic ed. Chattanooga, TN : AMG Publishers, 2000, c1992, c1993, S. G4240

Eng (English)

<sup>6</sup>Zodhiates, Spiros: *The Complete Word Study Dictionary : New Testament.* electronic ed. Chattanooga, TN : AMG Publishers, 2000, c1992, c1993, S. G4240



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## II. PUTTING ON YOUR BIG GIRL PANTIES

- *Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. –Colossians 3:13*

Take a look at the quote by Dutch Sheets from his book *Intercessory Prayer*:

- *[Anechomai] means 'to sustain, bear or hold up against a thing,' much as a person would tie a stake to a tomato plant to sustain it from the weight it carries. The strength of the stake is transferred to the plant and thus 'bears it up.' When the Lord commands us to bear with one another in Colossians 3:13 and Ephesians 4:2, He isn't simply saying, 'Put up with one another.' Although He is telling us to do that, He is also saying, 'Stake yourselves to one another.' In other words, we're to come alongside a weak brother or sister who is 'weighted down' and say, 'You're not going to fall and be broken or destroyed because I'm staking myself to you. My strength is now yours. Go ahead, lean on me. As long as I can stand, you will.'*
- This can be done mentally, without saying a word to the other person. I can *choose* to be spiritually staked to someone else. I can commit to pray for that person. I can take physical steps to ease their burden for a season.
- This is the higher road. I put on my big girl panties and I take the step into a potentially messy situation rather than turning my back on it. This is the road that rejects offense and anger and maligning another's good name. This is the path of humility and patience- hanging in there even when it gets tough. It's the way of gentleness and compassion. It is intimate living that is focused on others through the strength that God provides.
- *Please note:* Sometimes stronger boundaries with certain individuals are necessary. Seek wise counsel and prayerfully approach the unique relationships in your life.
- Is God moving your heart to be "staked" to someone else? If you're on a PWOC board or team, are you willing to be *staked* to your teammates for this year? What would that look like? Let's pause for just a moment. Ask God to bring anyone to mind that He is wanting you to be *staked* with.



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The other part of verse 13 exhorts us to forgive- not only to forgive, but to "forgive as the Lord forgave you."

- *charizomai* (khar-**id**-zom-ahée) the root of which is *charis* (**khar**-ece) or "grace." We could re-word this verse to say- "extend grace to each other, just as Christ has extended grace to you."
- *When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He **forgave** us all our sins having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; He took it away, nailing it to the cross. And having disarmed the powers and authorities, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.* –Colossians 2:13-15
- *charizomai*, means to freely give; to show oneself gracious; to pardon; to restore one to another; to graciously remit a penalty. To remit a penalty is to release another from guilt and refrain from collecting payment. To forgive someone is to drop all charges.

## ACTIVITY:

Work with a partner. Read Luke 7:41-43 below. The Greek word *charizomai* appears twice, once in verse 42 and again in verse 43. How is it worded in each?

- <sup>41</sup>*Two men owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. <sup>42</sup>Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he canceled the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?* <sup>43</sup>*Simon replied, 'I suppose the one who had the bigger debt canceled.'* 'You have judged correctly,' Jesus said.
- Phrase in verse 42:
- Phrase in verse 43:

Discuss with your partner what this would mean in the physical sense. Do you have a personal example of forgiveness regarding money owed?



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Discuss the implications of what this means for us in the spiritual sense. How much of the debt are we still entitled to collect? What standard does God's grace call us to? (See *Colossians 2:13 and 3:13*)

### III. THE ULTIMATE ACCESSORY

- *And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. –Colossians 3:14*
- Love- the perfect accessory. This accessory should be highly accessible and recognizable. A great accessory for an outfit is what is most readily noticed- *Great scarf! I love those shoes! Where did you get them? What a fabulous bag!* The first thing people should notice when we encounter them is love. God is love.
- 1 John 4:7-8 says, *Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.*
- *agape* (a-**gah**-pay) which is the love of God- unconditional, an act of the will. It knows no limits and is utterly independent of people's behavior or wrongs committed against us. Jesus Christ demonstrated this love on the Cross. *Agape* is the word used in John 3:16- For God so *loved* the world that He sent His one and only son... It is a love that is not based on reciprocation.

Listen to these other verses that use the word *agape*:

- **John 13:35** *By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.*
- **John 15:13** *Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.*
- **Romans 13:10a** *Love does no harm to its neighbor.*
- **1 Corinthians 13:4-8a** *Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.*



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- **1 Corinthians 16:14** *Do everything in love.*
- **Galatians 5:22** *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.*
- **Ephesians 4:2** *Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.*
- **Ephesians 5:1-2** *Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.*
- **1 Peter 4:8** *Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.*
- Colossians 3:14 tells us that love binds all these virtues (compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, bearing with each other, forgiving each other) together in perfect unity. The literal picture in the Greek is of the ligaments of the human body, holding everything together. It is sometimes translated "knit together." Oh that our hearts would be knit together!

## ACTIVITY:

One way to pray over an individual is to use Scripture. The name of the person you are praying for can be inserted into the Scriptural prayer. Read through the following prayers and mark one that you think you could use in the future.

- **Numbers 6:24-26** *The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn His face toward you and give you peace.*
- **Ephesians 1:17-18a** *I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know Him better. I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which He has called you, the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints, and His incomparably great power for us who believe.*
- **Ephesians 3:16-19** *I pray that out of His glorious riches He may strengthen you with power through His Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge- that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.*



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- **Colossians 1:10-14** *And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please Him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to His glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light. For He has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son He loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.*

- 1) Is there someone that you need to commit to pray this prayer over? Pray that God would soften your heart. Invite His presence into your relationship. He will delight in answering that prayer and will begin to show you His great heart for that person. Your heart will come into alignment with His. Even if the situation remains unchanged, your response will most certainly shift and you will be able to come to a point of peace.
- 2) Now assign yourself an accessory that will represent "putting on love" to you. For example: Whenever I put on my *SCARF*, I make a willful decision that I'm going to put on love. Write or draw your accessory below:

## **APPLY IT TO LIFE:**

- Take a moment to reflect. Did something from the workshop stand out to you? Are there steps you need to take? Take a moment to offer your thoughts to God.



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