

Every Believer is Chosen, Holy and Loved at the Cross and
Loved for All Eternity
Colossians 3:12b

**Every Believer is Chosen, Holy and Loved at
the Cross and Loved for All Eternity**

Colossians 3:12 Put on, therefore, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience;

Holy this is not what you are to ‘put on,’ this is what you are before God as being ‘in Christ’. In 1 Pet. 1:16 we have the exhortation that we are to be holy. But not here, this is what you are, positionally in Christ. 1 Pet. 1:16 exhorts the believer to be experientially what they are positionally in Christ. The Greek word ‘holy’ means saint or separated one. People, it is so important to know who and what you are! Before God, not before man.

To give you some idea as to who and what you are in this world, you are an ‘illegal alien.’ With all that is going on in the world today, this ought to give you some idea as to why you are so uncomfortable in this world. This is Satan’s world and you do not belong here. Think how we feel about ‘illegal aliens’ in America. Some people say that it is our Christian duty to accept and even welcome these illegal Muslims into our country. The problem here, is that this is a political issue. America is a free country and America is responsible for most of the money spent on evangelization of the world. Some American missionaries taught some people their own language and then printed the bible in their language.

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We should love, respect and guard the freedom we enjoy in spreading the gospel. We should guard it against aliens like the Muslims who by their own Koran, hate us. They hate Christians and Jews and are devoted to killing all those who are not Muslims. They hate the freedom given by our constitution, and desire for Sharia Law to rule, not the constitution. So, we should love our freedom to spread the gospel around the world more than allowing those into this country who are against the very freedom that allows them in.

So, we should know that we are ‘holy ones,’ ‘saints,’ ‘set apart’ and ‘separated ones,’ that is separated from the rest of population. The Roman Catholic Church canonizes one who has generally been dead for at least 5 years and based on at least one miracle accredited to that person. Their being declared a ‘saint’ is based on the works they performed in their lifetime. But according to the Bible, you are declared a saint by God, not because of any works or merit on your part but because you believed in Jesus Christ as Savior.

**Col. 3:12 Put on therefore as those who have
been chosen/elect of God, Holy**

It is amazing how people can take beautiful, wonderful concepts in the Bible and distort them.

I. There are two aspect or states of being ‘holy.’

A. When anyone believes in Jesus Christ, they are positionally holy, that is, in their position in Christ, they are holy before God.

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B. But of course, this does not mean they are holy experientially. We should make decisions in our daily lives to be experientially what we are in position in Christ...holy.

II. The Greek word 'holy' means set apart to God, sanctified, consecrated. That's right, before God you are a 'saint.' Before man you may be a 'demon' but before God you are a saint in Christ. This means before God you are perfect, pure, clean, all the things God made you when you believed in His son for salvation. You might recall in the Ten Questions of Job, these were the challenges of Satan: **Who can make the pure out of the impure or clean out of the unclean?** God does it every time a defiled unbeliever believes in Jesus Christ as Savior.

III. God the Father is holy. John 17:11; 1 Pet. 1:15; Rev. 4:8.

IV. Jesus Christ is holy. Lk 1:35; 4:34; John 6:69.

V. The Holy Spirit is holy. Matt. 1:18; Luke 3:22; John 14:26; Acts 2:4.

VI. Believers are made holy by the work of Jesus Christ on the cross. Heb. 10:10

VII. It is to Saints — holy believers of the Church Age that the mystery has been revealed. Col. 1:26-27.

VIII. We should give thanks for our being made holy before God for it is because we are holy that we share in the inheritance. Col. 1:12.

IX. Jesus Christ will be glorified in His Saints. 2 Thess. 1:10.

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This is what you are before God, in Christ: elect and holy

Put on, as those who have been chosen/elected by God, holy and beloved surprisingly this is not a noun but a *Perfect Passive Participle* of the beautiful word *agapao*. Therefore, it should be translated **having been loved**. The *Perfect* tense of the *participle* means that the action of the verb is completed with eternal results. You can never lose being ‘beloved’ by God. No matter how you live or don’t live, the faithfulness of the Love of God continues because you are in Christ. Jesus Christ is beloved and you share this position before God the Father with Jesus Christ. The *Passive* voice is the grace voice which means you did not earn being ‘beloved.’ This is wonderful because this means you cannot lose being ‘beloved’.

This security of our being ‘beloved’ is dependent on the character of God. God is absolute Sovereign, perfect Righteousness, pure Justice, Love and Eternal Life. God is Omnipotent, Omniscient, Omnipresent and very importantly Immutable and perfect Veracity or habitual truthfulness.

Why bring this up at this point? If God is going to love us, He has to find a way to do it so that He does not compromise His perfect Righteousness. His Immutability says that His character must remain intact at all times, which means He cannot love unrighteousness. We as humans often let this slide and we try to mix righteousness with unrighteousness, or good with bad, but God cannot do this. I hope I can make this clear. This is not a decision that God makes. This is who God

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is. He does not make a decision not to love unrighteousness, He simply cannot make such a decision. You cannot make a decision to be a dog or cat. You may act like a dog, but you cannot become one. So, it is with the Immutability of God. He cannot have fellowship with unrighteousness. But that is how everyone of us are born into the human race: unrighteous. This is due to the imputation of Adam's Original Sin giving us an Inherited Sin Nature. This means God cannot have fellowship with any of us no matter how nice you may think you are. Before God we are all sinful, evil creatures.

I hope from this you now grasp the importance of the 10 questions of Job, like:

Job 4:17 can mankind be just or righteous before God?

The answer is no, not at all.

Then there is that important question:

Job 8:3 Does God pervert Justice? Or does the Almighty pervert what is right?

These questions mean can God save or have fellowship with an unrighteous creature? If God does, then God perverts His own Justice. As you begin to grasp the dilemma we come to:

Job 9:2 How can a man be in the right before God?

You can hear the desperation in this question, from one who understands the dilemma.

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Then in

**Job 15:14 “What is man, that he should be
pure, Or he who is born of a woman, that he
should be righteous?”**

If we are going to have a relationship with God, we must be Righteous as He is Righteous. By our physical birth we are unrighteous with no way to become righteous. Then the question is recounted in

**Job 25:4 “How then can a man be just with
God? Or how can he be clean who is born of
woman?”**

Hear the desperate cry...*how!!!* And Satan has his answer recorded in

**Job 14:4 “Who can make the clean out of the
unclean?”**

and Satan answers

No one!

Not man himself, not angels and not even God.

Love from God, which is perfect love must also keep His Veracity intact. So here is the dilemma of God: There are His created beings, mankind, who are impure, unclean and unrighteousness. God being perfect righteousness (+R) and held intact by His Veracity must find a way by which He can love mankind.

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This is why it is so important to correctly translate John 3:16. It does not say *God loved the world and so He gave His only Son*...No, it correctly says,

John 3:16 For in this manner, The God loved the world, **that He gave His only Son, that whosoever believing in Him shall not perish but have life eternal.**

Here is Grace in its purest form. Grace is the only way that God found whereby He could love mankind without ever compromising any part of His Divine Character.

To be a beneficiary of God's love is conditional. It is conditioned on faith in His beloved Son. God can love His Son, Jesus Christ because Jesus Christ was without sin and perfect and therefore when you believe in Jesus Christ as Savior, you share the love of God the Father for His Son, which is here described as **beloved**.

While the gospel is so easy, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shall be saved," (Acts 16:31) it is so complex in all its parts.

Unfortunately, this is why so few really grasp the truth of the gospel and distort it in so many different ways. Three basic ways of distorting the Gospel of Salvation:

1. you have to earn salvation,
2. or you can lose salvation or
3. you are chosen to be saved.

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None of these gives the peace and assurance of Eternal Life after death. But the true Gospel gives both the assurance and peace of Eternal Life after death.

How is it possible for a perfectly righteous God to remain uncompromised in His essence and still love man? The answer is Grace! The mechanics that works all this out is the cross, that is the spiritual and physical death of Jesus Christ on the cross, and subsequent Resurrection to Eternal Life. When Jesus Christ was on the cross, He was perfect Righteousness satisfying the perfect Righteousness of God. In dying spiritually, He bore the judgment of all the sins of every member of the human race, satisfying the perfect Justice of God. This removes the negative of the gospel — payment for personal sins. But there is still the issue of the positive side of the gospel, that is our being perfectly righteous before God. So, every time when a person believes in Jesus Christ as Savior, God the Holy Spirit imputes that person with perfect Righteousness. God the Father's Justice is satisfied with the propitiatory death of Jesus Christ and His justice is satisfied with the perfect Righteousness imputed and man is declared Justified or Saved Forever. Now, because God the Holy Spirit baptizes every believer into Jesus Christ, God the Father is now free to love every believer without jeopardizing His own perfect Essence. Therefore, **by grace you have been saved through faith and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God.** (Eph 2:8) What is the gift of God? Not faith, as the Calvinist would have you think but the whole package of salvation by grace through faith. That is the free gift from God.

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Failure of understanding all the mechanics of salvation causes some to conclude that when a believer sins in a horrible way or who denies Jesus Christ later, then God stops loving that person and they lose their salvation. The problem here is that they fail to understand the permanence of Imputed Righteousness. A believer remains 'holy' forever. Therefore, God can continue to love that sinful believer without compromising His perfect essence. Positionally the believer never changes. That believer is holy forever regardless of what happens experientially. So God is free to continue to love that believer forever. Therefore, the believer is said to be **beloved**. Plus the fact, that in the Church Age whenever one believes in Jesus Christ as Savior, God the Holy Spirit baptizes or identifies that believer as being in Christ. Therefore, the believer shares the sonship of Christ and that means he/she is in the beloved of Jesus Christ for all eternity.

Just a word on our lives 'experientially.' Positionally, we are elected in Christ, Holy and beloved. We can never lose this position in Christ. But experientially, that is in our lives here on Earth, we still possess an Inherited Sin Nature. This means that we will commit personal sins. This means experientially we are unrighteous and cannot have fellowship with the Righteous God. So once again, there is the divine dilemma: God being perfect Righteousness cannot have fellowship with an unrighteous believer. So, in the same pattern as our eternal salvation, God designed a grace way for man to become experientially Righteous. Again, it is by faith, only this time it is faith in the Holy Spirit. At the point of faith in the Holy Spirit we are Righteous before God and Jesus Christ can come into His Temple (our bodies).

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1 Corinthians 3:16 Do you not know that you are a temple of God and *that* the Spirit of God dwells in you?

This compared with:

1 Corinthians 6:19 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?

Now to understand the presence of Jesus Christ in your life for fellowship and friendship, based on faith in Holy Spirit look at

2 Cor. 13:5 Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you—unless indeed you fail the test?

This is one of those verses that is not understood by most. First in the original manuscripts *faith* is preceded by the definite article: *the faith*. Since this is written to believers this does not refer to saving faith in Jesus Christ for eternal Salvation. They are already saved. This is referring to the continuous act of faith in the Holy Spirit that we are to live – *we walk by faith* and if or when we are empowered by the Holy Spirit by faith, Jesus Christ comes into His Temple — that is into us for fellowship and friendship.

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**John 14:23 Jesus answered and said to him,
“If anyone loves Me,**

And the only way we can love Him is by the power of the Holy Spirit for the fruit of the Holy Spirit is love Gal. 5:22.

**(continuing from) John 14:23 he will keep My
word; and My Father will love him, and We will
come to him and make Our abode with him.**

This is so wonderful! Note in John 14:2 **“in my father’s house are many dwelling places.”** This is the word translated *abode* in verse 23 **if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you.**

We don’t want to miss what is going on here. In verse 2 we will go up to Jesus and the Father, while in verse 23 Jesus and the Father come down to us. And the idea is the same in both: to dwell with. We will go up in the rapture to dwell with Jesus Christ and God the Father but in our lives when filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus and the Father come down to us or more accurately in us, for fellowship. But again, not Jesus Christ nor God the Father will come in us if we are out of fellowship with the Holy Spirit, that is if we are carnal or unrighteous, experientially. The potential of them coming in us for fellowship is because we are righteous positionally. But, the reality of our being in fellowship with Jesus Christ is dependent upon our being righteous experientially. This can happen only when we are filled with the Holy Spirit by grace through faith.

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Gal. 5:5 For we (believers) through the Spirit, (by faith, by faith we are in the power of the Holy Spirit and) **by faith we are waiting for the hope/confidence of righteousness** (in our lives experientially).

So, our gracious, loving, compassionate God found a way to love the most obnoxious believer who ever came along. Don't forget the *intensive perfect* of this being 'beloved.' The *intensive perfect* means that He loves us, has loved us in the past at the point of faith in Jesus Christ with the result that He is free to keep on loving us forever. God is Eternal Life which means He is going to love us forever! God is Immutable which means He will never change. God loves every believer with a perfect, caring love. Don't ever forget this.

Let's put some of these principles together in simple summary:

Beloved

1. The *perfect passive participle*, **having been loved** is also found in Eph. 1:6; 1 Thess. 1:4; 2 Thess. 2:13. In all these verses it is translated the same way: **beloved**. But, it should be translated **having been loved** in the past with the result that you keep on being loved.
2. However, the word beloved also is translated the same way for the noun. The noun is found in Rom. 1:7; Heb. 6:9; James 1:16, 19; 2:5; 1 Pet. 4:12; 2 Pet.3:1 and 1John 3:2. The point here is that the word ***beloved*** is found in two forms and translated the same way as

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beloved.

(1) participle form, **having been loved** in the past with the result that you keep on being loved.

(2) the simple noun: **beloved**

3. However, the *participle* is even stronger than the *noun*. Both the *participle* and the *noun* emphasize the fact that every believer is in union with Jesus Christ and is therefore the object of God the Father's love. The Father loves you with an infinite, caring love; the same love He has for the Son.
4. By comparing the *perfect passive participle* in Eph. 1:6 (**to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved**) and the *perfect passive participle* in Col. 3:12, we begin to see just how fantastic and wonderful is God's love for us. We especially need to remember this in times of tragedy or inner turmoil. This is one of the ways in which you avoid that great trap in your soul of self-pity and hopelessness. Eph. 1:6 tells us that Jesus Christ is The Beloved. Colossians 3:12 tells us that since we are in Christ we also are Beloved. We saw how our election is based on Jesus Christ and here our being Beloved is also based on our position in Christ. So, it does not matter if you feel like you are beloved, nor does it matter if you act like you are beloved...The truth is...you are beloved. Christ is the object of God's love and every believer is the object of God's love.
5. The Implications are obvious. Every believer, regardless of experiential spiritual status is loved by God the Father with the

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same amount of love that He has for His Son, Jesus Christ. How can that be? Because when God the Father looks at you, in the pew or in the gutter, He sees His Son, He sees you in His Son. Therefore, He loves you with the same amount of Love — Divine Love toward you!

6. When you believed in Jesus Christ as Savior, God did 34 unchangeable things for you. One of those was to baptize you or identify you into Christ where you are eternally positioned in Christ. Therefore, you became the object of God the Father's perfect and unchangeable love.
7. Now let's take a look at the believer. Your ability to love God, even to love Jesus Christ varies in accordance with living in the Holy Spirit and growing in the knowledge of God and of Jesus Christ. Please understand that the more Bible Doctrine in your soul, the richer is the impact of Spiritual Love given to you by God the Holy Spirit. Little doctrine, little impact of the fruit of the Holy Spirit of love. The more doctrine in your soul, the greater the impact of Spiritual Love in you and in your life.
8. The believer's love for God varies, but God's love for every believer is the same, and is maximum and unchangeable. God's love for the believer is always the same from the cross to eternity and does not change regardless of the spiritual condition of the believer. How His love is manifested may change but not His love. Out of His love, He may have to administer Divine Discipline, but

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that discipline is designed to bring the believer back into the Spirit-filled life.

Oh, people, I hope that you desire an intimate friendship with your Savior, which any believer can enjoy by being filled with the Holy Spirit, walking by the Spirit; led by the Holy Spirit; living by the Holy Spirit and keeping in step with Holy Spirit (Gal. 5:16, 18. and 25 and Eph. 5:18).

We now move to five characteristics in which the believer must be clothed in order to comply with the imperative **put on or clothe yourself**. It is very important that we understand that these five characteristics are a description of the impact or effect of Spiritual Love.

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chosen/elected by God, holy and beloved, (1)
a heart of compassion (2) kindness (3)
humility (4) gentleness and (5) patience.**

Due to the importance of these 5 characteristics of Spiritual Love we shall not rush through them. As we describe each one, examine yourselves to see if these characterize your life, your love toward one another.