

1. Tonight we will continue our study of the Book of Colossians at verse 14 of chapter 3. Last week I completed a case study designed to illustrate from the life of David the importance of applying the Word of God.
2. Before we begin our analysis of Col 3:14, you may want to take advantage of God's protocol for fellowship by silently naming your sins to God as we pray.
3. Let me first give you an expanded translation of Col 3:12-13 and then we will see what we can learn from verse 14.

Col 3:12 Therefore in view of what we have just learned, you must clothe and invest yourselves like the elected ones of God, set-apart and loved by each member of the Trinity, manifesting an emotional stability and control consistent with your holy and beloved status; full of virtue love and kindness, modesty and humility of mind; always displaying stability even under pressure;

Col 3:13 endure and tolerate without complaint your fellow believers while also being gracious and forgiving to others. And if anyone has a complaint against another, they should forgive just as Christ forgave.

KJV-Sentence continues

Col 3:14 And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.

NIV

Col 3:14 And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

AND ABOVE ALL THESE THINGS ΔΕ ΕΠΙ ΠΑΣ ΟΥΤΟΣ

1. **De Epi Pas Houtos** is better "But over and above all the ethical imperatives listed ..."
2. **De** is a conjunction used as an adversative followed by the preposition **Epi** and the noun/adjective **Pas**. Next follows the demonstrative pronoun **Houtos**, declined as a dative plural.

PUT ON CHARITY, Ο ΑΓΑΠΗ

1. **Ho Agape** is better "you need to make application of the protocols found in the Word ..."
2. **Agape** is a monadic noun declined as an accusative singular.

3. **Agape** is translated in the KJV "charity" and in most other translations it is translated either as "love" or "virtue love."

3.1 **Agape** is a love from a transformed mind; it is a love or mental attitude toward people and/or things based solely on "what the Bible says." It is a love based on who and what the lover is, and has nothing to do with who and what the object of the love is or does. **Agape** is therefore doctrine applied as the Holy Spirit performs the work of making doctrine perspicuous and ready for application as the believer continues to be filled with the Holy Spirit by means of confession. Application therefore takes place right smack in the middle of the devil's world--occasions arise and doctrine applies.

3.1.1 For example, a believer possessing **Agape** love will:

- be slow to anger
- pray for those who spitefully use you
- bless those who curse you
- avoid envy, bitterness and jealousy
- do not offend a weaker brother
- associate with all people including those of low degree
- avoid seeking places of honor
- avoid local assemblies where there are women deacons and/or pastors
- avoid local assemblies where homosexuals are ordained
- separate from criminals, reversionists and hyperemotional types
- recognize the total depravity of man
- believe in eternal security
- support the privacy of the believer
- believe in unlimited atonement
- support establishment principles and obey all laws
- serve in the military and kill the enemy with vigor
- pay all taxes owed
- be a good employee
- love all people with impersonal love
- be a good husband, wife and parent
- do not lie
- name your sin to God when the Holy Spirit shows you a sin
- obey all other ethical imperatives found in the Bible.

3.1.2 The protocol plan of God is designed to develop **Agape**. A believer with **Agape** will display a set of standards based on the Word of God.

3.1.3 A believer full of doctrine will display the perfect precepts found in the Bible.

Rom 12:2 "Be you not conformed to the thinking of this world but instead be transformed by the renewing of your mind ..."

3.2 The believer's job in time is to transform the mind and develop **Agape** love. In speaking to Felix at Caesarea, Paul described his own conscience as "void of offense toward God and toward men."

Acts 24:16 And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offense toward God, and toward men.

4. Several uses of **Agape** found elsewhere in the New Testament are as follows:

- In the Tribulation love is said to grow cold.

Mat 24:12 Because of the increase of wickedness, the "**love**" of most will grow cold,

- Law keeping without love is worthless.

Luk 11:42 "Woe to you Pharisees, because you give God a tenth of your mint, rue and all other kinds of garden herbs, but you neglect justice and the "**love**" of God. You should have practiced the latter without leaving the former undone.

- Love fulfills the law.

Rom 13:10 "**Love**" does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore "**love**" is the fulfillment of the law.

Rom 13:11 And do this, understanding the present time. The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.

Rom 13:12 The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light.

- Every good thing must be done in the spirit of "love."

1Co 16:13 Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage; be strong.

1Co 16:14 Do everything in "**love**."

- For example, giving is to be done in the spirit of love.

2Co 8:7 Therefore, as ye abound in every thing, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your "**love**" to us, see that ye abound in this grace also.

2Co 8:8 I speak not by commandment, but by occasion of the forwardness of others, and to prove the sincerity of your "**love**."

- We are to serve one another in love and thus fulfill the exhortation of loving your neighbor as yourself.

Gal 5:13 You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge

the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in "**love**."

Gal 5:14 The entire law is summed up in a single command: "'**Love**' your neighbor as yourself."

- We are to walk in love.

Eph 5:2 And walk in "**love**," as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.

- A transformed life is a life of love toward others--as a product of being united with Christ.

Phi 2:1 If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his "**love**," if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, Phi 2:2 then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same "**love**," being one in spirit and purpose.

Phi 2:3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.

Phi 2:4 Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

- Paul desires the Thessolonians to manifest the love of Christ and thus be sterling silver when Christ translates His church.

1Th 3:12 May the Lord make your "**love**" increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you.

1Th 3:13 May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.

- In the Tribulation there will be many who will be deceived and thus reject the love of Christ.

2Th 2:9 Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,

2Th 2:10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the "**love**" of the truth, that they might be saved.

2Th 2:11 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:

- Paul is grateful for the faith God gave him and the "love" of Christ even though he was the chiefest of sinners.

1Ti 1:14 The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and "**love**" that are in Christ Jesus.

1Ti 1:15 Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came

into the world to save sinners-- of whom I am the worst.

- Paul exhorts Titus to be sound in love and in endurance as he teaches the older men and the older women.

Tit 2:2 Teach the older men to be temperate, worthy of respect, self-controlled, and sound in faith, in **"love"** and in endurance.

Tit 2:3 Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good.

Tit 2:4 Then they can train the younger women to love their husbands and children,

Tit 2:5 to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God.

- The importance of love is demanded by John in 1Jo 4:7-10.

1Jo 4:7 Dear friends, let us **"love"** one another, for **"love"** comes from God. Everyone who **"loves"** has been born of God and knows God.

1Jo 4:8 Whoever does not **"love"** does not know God, because God is **"love."**

1Jo 4:9 This is how God showed his **"love"** among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.

1Jo 4:10 This is **"love:"** not that we **"loved"** God, but that he **"loved"** us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

1Jo 4:11 Dear friends, since God so **"loved"** us, we also ought to **"love"** one another.

- John defines love in 2Jo 6.

2Jo 6 And this is **"love:"** that we walk in obedience to his commands. As you have heard from the beginning, his command is that you walk in **"love."**

2Jo 7 Many deceivers, who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh, have gone out into the world. Any such person is the deceiver and the antichrist.

2Jo 8 Watch out that you do not lose what you have worked for, but that you may be rewarded fully.

- Jude exhorts believers to keep themselves in love and wait for the rapture--he then describes the product of love.

Jude 21 Keep yourselves in God's **"love"** as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.

Jude 22 Be merciful to those who doubt;

Jude 23 snatch others from the fire and save them; to others show mercy, mixed with fear--hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh.

5. Now let's see how our verse looks so far by way of an expanded translation.

Expanded Translation

Col 3:14 But over and above all the ethical imperatives listed, you need to

make application of the protocols found in the Word of God by means of Agape--love ..."

6. And now for the phrase "which is the bond."

WHICH IS THE BOND ὅς εἰμι σύνδεσμος

1. **Hos Eimi Sundesmos** is better translated "which such love is and keeps on being that which holds together all the imperatives ..."

2. **Hos** is a relative pronoun followed by the verb **Eimi** parsed as 3rd person singular, present active indicative. Next follows the noun **Sundesmos**, declined as a nominative singular and used as a predicate nominative.

3. **Sundesmos** is also used to describe a girdle, binding or belt used to hold together items of clothing or equipment in the case of a soldier. **Agape**, that which is found in the Word of God, is the ultimate binding, holding all ethical imperatives together.

3.1 **Sundesmos** is a compound consisting of **Sun**, meaning together with and **Desmos** meaning "a string, a bond, a band, a chain" or "a prison." **Sundesmos** can be found three other places in the New Testament where it is translated "that held together, that captured, a bond" or "a band."

Simon the Sorcerer

Acts 8:13 Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done.

Acts 8:14 Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John:

Acts 8:15 Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost:

Acts 8:16 (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.)

Acts 8:17 Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.

Acts 8:18 And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money,

Acts 8:19 Saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost.

Acts 8:20 But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money.

Acts 8:21 Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God.

Acts 8:22 Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee.

Acts 8:23 For I perceive that you are full of bitterness, and and "**captive**" by sin.

Acts 8:24 Then answered Simon, and said, Pray ye to the Lord for me, that none of these

things which ye have spoken come upon me.

Eph 4:3 Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the "**bond**" of peace.

Eph 4:4 There is one body and one Spirit-- just as you were called to one hope when you were called--

Eph 4:5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism;

Eph 4:6 one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

Col 2:16 Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day.

Col 2:17 These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ.

Col 2:18 Do not let anyone who delights in false humility and the worship of angels disqualify you for the prize. Such a person goes into great detail about what he has seen, and his unspiritual mind puffs him up with idle notions.

Col 2:19 He has lost connection with the Head, from whom the whole body, supported and "**held together**" by its ligaments and sinews, grows as God causes it to grow.

Col 2:20 Since you died with Christ to the basic principles of this world, why, as though you still belonged to it, do you submit to its rules:

Col 2:21 "Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch!"?

4. And now for the phrase "of perfectness."

OF PERFECTNESS Ο ΤΕΛΕΙΟΤΗΣ.

1. **Ho Teleiotes** is better translated "in perfect unity ready to perform that which God demands or "needs done."

2. **Teleiotes** is a noun declined as a genitive singular.

3. **Teleiotes** can be found one other place in the New Testament. Heb 6:1

Heb 6:1 Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto "**perfection (maturity in the NIV)**"; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God,

Heb 6:2 Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.

Heb 6:3 And this will we do, if God permit.

4. The verb form, of **Teleiotes** is **Teleioo**, meaning "to fulfill, to reach a goal, to finish, to make perfect," or "perfect." A look at several uses in the New Testament will help make clear Paul's use in our verse 14.

Luk 13:31 The same day there came certain of the Pharisees, saying unto him, Get thee out, and depart hence: for Herod will kill thee.

Luk 13:32 And he said unto them, Go ye, and tell that fox, Behold, I cast out devils, and I

do cures today and tomorrow, and the third day I "**shall be perfected**" (in the NIV "**reach my goal**)."

Joh 19:28 Later, knowing that all was now completed, and so that the Scripture "**would be fulfilled**," Jesus said, "I am thirsty."

Acts 20:23 Save that the Holy Spirit witnesseth in every city, saying that "*bonds*" and afflictions abide me.

Acts 20:24 But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might "**finish**" my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.

2Co 12:9 And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is "**made perfect**" in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

2Co 12:10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

End Lesson Taught 1-20-10