

DRESS APPROPRIATELY

UNIFORM OF A GODLY MAN SERIES

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

DON'T LEAVE THE HOUSE SPIRITUALLY NAKED

Before a man walks out the door, he checks the mirror. Clothes say something. They communicate identity, intent, and readiness. A uniform signals who you are. A suit shows you mean business. A hard hat means you're ready for work.

But spiritually? Too many of us walk into the day exposed. Still wearing the mindsets, attitudes, and default behaviors of the old man we were before Christ. Paul says: *Take that off. And put on something new.* You've been chosen. Set apart. Dearly loved. Now start dressing like it.

The Greek word Paul uses for “clothe” is *enduo* — it means to sink into, to wrap yourself in, to wear intentionally. It's the same word used to describe putting on armor (Eph 6:11) or power from the Spirit (Luke 24:49). This isn't about acting the part — it's about walking into your day wrapped in the character of Christ.

You put it on... or you drift back into what's familiar. Every day is a wardrobe decision: *Will I wear pride or humility? Harshness or gentleness? Performance or patience?* No one drifts toward Christlikeness. You suit up for it.

WHY THE ANALOGY OF CLOTHING

Clothing has a purpose. And spiritually, these “garments” Paul lists aren't just moral upgrades — they're tools for transformation. Here's what they do:

- **Protection** – Just like clothes guard you from the elements, these virtues guard your soul. They shield your marriage, your relationships, and your witness.
- **Identity** – Uniforms signal belonging. These garments reflect who you now are in Christ: not defined by your past, your productivity, or your title — but by your adoption.
- **Confidence** – When you know you're dressed right, you walk differently. These clothes replace shame with assurance. Not arrogance, but the quiet strength of a man who knows he belongs to Someone.

DRESSED FOR WORK

At work, what you wear spiritually matters just as much as what's on your business card. Are you showing up in the old uniform — guarded, reactive, demanding? Or are you wearing Christ — calm under pressure, kind in conflict, and steady when things get chaotic?

Here's what suiting up looks like at work:

- Pausing to pray before that tense conversation.
- Choosing calm over control in a high-stress meeting.
- Being the same man offstage as you are onstage.

Your job isn't just your platform — it's your proving ground.

FROM THE BATTLEFIELD TO THE BOARDROOM

General William Booth, founder of the Salvation Army, once said, *"The greatness of a man's power is the measure of his surrender."*

Booth led with a fierce commitment to both justice and holiness — not just preaching the gospel but living it in the slums and streets. But before his movement became global, he built a culture: soldiers wore uniforms. Not for show — but to remind themselves who they were, whom they served, and what they were fighting for.

We need that same mindset. This world doesn't need more impressive men. It needs surrendered ones — clothed in something stronger than ego.

CHALLENGE QUESTIONS

- Q.** What are you still wearing from your "old self" — in your reactions, leadership, or relationships?
- Q.** What would it practically look like for you to "clothe yourself" each morning?
- Q.** Which of the five garments in Colossians 3:12 do you resist putting on the most — and why?

SCRIPTURAL CROSS-REFERENCES

- Colossians 3:9–10 — "You have taken off your old self... and have put on the new self..."
- Romans 13:14 — "Clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ..."

- Ephesians 4:22–24 – “Put off your old self... be made new in the attitude of your minds... put on the new self...”

PRAYER

Father, help me stop living like the man I used to be. Show me what I’m still clinging to — and give me the courage to take it off. Today, I choose to clothe myself in who You say I am. Wrap me in Your character — not just for my sake, but for the people I lead, love, and influence. In Jesus’ name, amen.

ACTION STEP

Take 60 seconds before you walk into work — in your car, in the shower, or standing at your closet — and deliberately **put on your spiritual uniform**. Don’t just rush into your day mentally unclothed.

“God, today I choose to wear compassion... kindness... humility... gentleness... and patience.”

Ask Him to help you see these virtues not as pressure, but as preparation — what you *get* to wear because of who you are in Christ. Do it daily. And let that rhythm remind you: you’re not just surviving another day — you’re showing up as a representative of Jesus.

CLOTHE YOURSELF

Deliberately wearing the character of Christ in how you lead, respond, and show up in life and work. Taking off the attitudes of the old self — and dressing for the impact God designed you to make.

GARMENT 1: COMPASSION

UNIFORM OF A GODLY MAN SERIES

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

REAL MEN FEEL — AND ACT

Some guys think compassion is weakness. Too soft. Too emotional. But biblical compassion isn't passive pity. It's *gut-level empathy that moves you to action*.

The Greek word here is *splagchnon*, which literally refers to your guts — your inner parts. It's not just "feeling bad" for someone. It's feeling it so deeply that you can't just stand there. You have to do something. That's the kind of compassion Jesus showed over and over — healing the sick, feeding the hungry, welcoming the outsider. Moved... and mobilized.

Compassion doesn't ignore pain. It enters it. It slows down enough to see people — and step into their mess, even when it costs something.

If you're too busy to be moved, you're too busy to be like Jesus.

WHY MEN AVOID COMPASSION

Let's be real. A lot of men avoid compassion because it feels inconvenient. We don't want to slow down for someone else's pain when we're running on empty ourselves. We're wired to fix things, not feel things. And when we can't fix it, we tend to pull away — not because we don't care, but because we don't know what to do with someone else's hurt.

But compassion isn't emotional weakness — it's spiritual alertness. It's what happens when you see people the way Jesus does and refuse to look away. It's the holy discomfort that keeps you from walking past pain. Compassion doesn't just feel — it moves. It shows up. It makes space. It interrupts your plans for the sake of someone else's need.

You can't influence people you don't care about. And you won't care if you've numbed out.

COMPASSION AT WORK

Compassion at work doesn't mean lowering the bar — it means lifting the person. It's not about excusing poor performance or turning a blind eye when things go sideways. It's about remembering that people are more than what they produce. Leaders with compassion don't ignore the standard — they just refuse to sacrifice souls on the altar of results.

This kind of man pays attention. He notices when someone's off their game — not to scold, but to lean in. He sees the exhaustion behind the smile, the silence that's louder than words, the stress that others miss or avoid.

We're in a fight, whether we realize it or not. The Bible reminds us that we're up against a real enemy—one who deceives, accuses, isolates, and steals joy from people's lives. Life isn't just hard because of stress or broken systems; there's a battle happening under the surface of every day (Ephesians 6:10–12).

That's why compassion matters. Not because we can fix everything, but because we can choose not to let others suffer alone. Sometimes the most Christlike thing you can do is jump in the foxhole with someone and say, "I'm not going anywhere." You might not have the answers. You might not be able to get them out of the mess. But you can be there—a steady presence, a brother in the fight. That's compassion. And it's powerful.

THE CEO WHO KNEW THEIR NAMES

Herb Kelleher, co-founder of Southwest Airlines, built one of the most successful airlines in U.S. history — not by cutting corners, but by caring for people. He was known for remembering employees' names, writing personal notes, and defending his team fiercely.

He once said, "A company is stronger if it is bound by love rather than by fear."

Kelleher believed that if he treated employees with compassion, they'd treat customers the same way. And he was right — Southwest became legendary for both company culture and customer service.

What if your leadership was fueled by that kind of compassion — the kind that doesn't compromise excellence, but strengthens it?

CHALLENGE QUESTIONS

- Q. Where have you become numb to other people's pain?
- Q. Is your leadership marked more by pressure or compassion?
- Q. What's one way you can lead with empathy this week — not as a strategy, but as a reflection of Christ?

SCRIPTURAL CROSS-REFERENCES

- Luke 7:13 – “When the Lord saw her, His heart went out to her...”
- Matthew 9:36 – “He had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless...”
- 1 John 3:17–18 – “If anyone sees his brother in need... let us not love with words but with actions.”

PRAYER

Jesus, give me Your eyes to see the people around me — not just their performance, but their pain. Break through the walls I've built around my heart. Teach me to lead with compassion that reflects Your heart — strong, steady, and sacrificial. Make me the kind of man who doesn't just notice — but moves.

ACTION STEP

Real compassion doesn't flinch at pain — it leans in. Keep your eyes open for someone who's quietly struggling: not just those close to you, but anyone God places in your path. You might not be the one to fix their situation — and that's okay. But you can offer a word of hope, speak life into their day, or pray a short prayer right then and there. Be the kind of man who doesn't walk past the wounded. That's where compassion gets real.

COMPASSION

Seeing people through the eyes of Christ. Choosing to care — even when it's costly. Feeling what others feel, and letting that empathy move you to action.

GARMENT 2: KINDNESS

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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*

THE POSTURE OF HONOR

Kindness isn't just how you treat people you *like*. It's how you treat people ... period. People you'll never see again. People who have nothing to offer you. People who may never say thank you. And yes, even people you don't trust.

It's easy to be kind to someone you love or respect — your kids, your pastor, your friends, even your coworkers. But **true kindness shows up in the small moments** you could easily excuse or ignore. The cashier who moves slowly. The waiter who forgot your table. The security guard you walk past every morning without ever learning her name.

Kindness sees people — all people — as *image-bearers of God*. Not extras in the story of your life, but souls with eternal value. It lifts others not because of what they can do for you, but because of who they already are to Him.

Paul's words in Colossians 3 are not about forced politeness or niceness for show. They're about clothing yourself with the kind of presence that **treats strangers with dignity**, gives the benefit of the doubt, and carries the tone of heaven into ordinary places.

IT'S IN THE HOW

Kindness isn't just about being helpful. It's about how you show up.

- It's the smile that puts someone at ease.
- The compliment that lifts a coworker's confidence.
- The tone you choose when you could snap.
- The moment you slow down enough to actually listen.
- The unexpected courtesy you extend to a stranger.

Anyone can offer assistance. Kindness offers presence. It's the relational tone of heaven — gentle, respectful, full of light. The world is loud with busyness, criticism and competition. Kindness is what catches people off guard in the best way.

AT WORK: KINDNESS BUILDS CULTURE

In the workplace, kindness doesn't mean being passive or avoiding hard conversations. It means delivering truth with honor. It means making someone feel human in a room that treats them like a resource.

Kindness at work looks like:

- Holding the door for the intern — not to be polite, but to set a tone.
- Giving someone your full attention in a meeting — not just nodding while you type.
- Complimenting the janitor with the same sincerity you'd give the CEO.

Leadership expert Jon Gordon says, *"Kindness isn't just a nice idea — it's a competitive advantage."* Why? Because it creates a culture people want to be part of. And in a world of pressure, that's rare.

DOUG CONANT'S HANDWRITTEN NOTES

Doug Conant, former CEO of Campbell Soup Company, became known for writing over 30,000 handwritten thank-you notes to employees and clients during his tenure.

This wasn't a PR move; it was deeply personal. As he said, sending those notes showed people that "I am personally paying attention and celebrating their contributions." When he was later hospitalized after a serious accident, those same employees flooded him with handwritten messages of encouragement—proof that his kind investment created a culture that cared back.

CHALLENGE QUESTIONS

- Q.** When you think of someone who's truly kind, what stands out most — their words, their actions, or their presence? Why?
- Q.** Where in your life are you most tempted to overlook people — to treat them like background noise instead of image-bearers?
- Q.** How does your tone or body language change depending on someone's status, usefulness, or how they treat you?

SCRIPTURAL CROSS-REFERENCES

- Ephesians 4:29 – “Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up...”
- Ephesians 4:32 – “Be kind and compassionate... just as in Christ God forgave you.”
- Titus 3:4–5 – “When the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, He saved us...”
- Romans 2:4 – “God’s kindness is meant to lead you to repentance.”

PRAYER

Father, thank You for Your kindness — patient, undeserved, relentless. Help me reflect that same heart in how I speak, lead, and interact with others today. Let me honor people not because they’ve earned it, but because they’re Yours.

ACTION STEP

Choose one ordinary space in your weekly routine — your commute, your lunch break, your walk into the office — and make it your **kindness zone**. Not a checklist, but a mindset shift. Begin asking God, each day, to help you *see people* in that space as He sees them — with dignity, value, and purpose.

Start small: a smile, a name, a question, a thank-you. Ask the Spirit to interrupt your autopilot and grow in you a heart that honors others — not for what they do, but for who they are. Do this daily. And watch how God uses it to rewire your posture, not just your behavior.

KINDNESS

Treating others with dignity, warmth, and honor — not because of who they are to you, but because of who they are to God.

GARMENT 3: HUMILITY

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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*

THE POWER TO LOOK BEYOND YOURSELF

Pride is loud. Humility is lethal.

One builds a platform. The other builds people.

Pride feeds the need to be seen, respected, and admired. Humility doesn't need the spotlight—it's too busy serving. It isn't timid or self-deprecating. It's bold, but grounded. It stands tall but never stands over. It's not passive—it's power under restraint.

The humble man is a dangerous man—dangerous to the enemy's schemes. Because he can't be baited by applause or derailed by offense. He listens when others speak. He owns his mistakes before they're exposed. He leads with security, not swagger.

Humility doesn't downplay your gifts — it right-sizes them. It says, "These aren't mine to boast in. They're mine to steward." A humble man doesn't have to be the smartest, the fastest, or the loudest. He just keeps showing up, lifting others, and living like he's not the center of the story.

HUMILITY AT WORK

Humility isn't about playing small — it's about showing up with the right mindset. In the workplace, humble men:

- Asking questions instead of faking it.
- Seeking input from people younger, newer, or lower on the org chart — because insight isn't tied to title.
- Serving your team in the unglamorous stuff — whether anyone's watching or not.
- Spotlighting teammates so they receive the credit, promotions, or praise.
- Resisting the itch to prove yourself in every meeting or email thread.
- Taking feedback, even from someone you don't admire.

"The X-factor of great leadership is not personality, it is humility." – Jim Collins (author of Good to Great)

THE PRESIDENT WHO SHINED SHOES

Abraham Lincoln was known to quietly walk the White House halls late at night — not for politics, but to visit wounded soldiers. He once stopped to shine the boots of a dozing guard because they reminded him of home.

Lincoln said, *“Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man’s character, give him power.”*

CHALLENGE QUESTIONS

- Q.** Where is pride hiding in your leadership or relationships?
- Q.** What’s one area where you’ve been faking confidence instead of asking for help?
- Q.** Who can you elevate this week — not to impress, but to bless?

SCRIPTURAL CROSS-REFERENCES

- Philippians 2:3–5 – “In humility value others above yourselves... have the mindset of Christ.”
- Proverbs 11:2 – “With humility comes wisdom.”
- 1 Peter 5:5–6 – “Clothe yourselves with humility... that He may lift you up.”

PRAYER

Jesus, You didn’t come to be served — but to serve. Help me lead like that. Crush my pride. Expose my ego. Replace it with the mindset You modeled — humble, secure, and full of grace. Let people around me feel lifted, not used.

ACTION STEP

Ask a teammate or friend where they see pride show up in your life — and don’t defend it. Just listen. It might sting. But humility doesn’t flinch at the truth — it grows from it. And the man willing to hear it is already becoming the man God can use.

HUMILITY

Leading with self-awareness, not self-promotion. Valuing others. Owning your limits. Being confident enough to serve and secure enough to ask for help.

GARMENT 4: GENTLENESS

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THE RESTRAINT OF THE STRONG

You ever try opening a new jar of pickles? Sometimes it takes a full-body torque — bracing the jar on the counter, gripping the lid with a towel, even whacking the bottom to loosen the seal. Now imagine using that same force to open a tiny glass bottle of your wife's essential oils. Same basic material — glass. Same objective — open the lid. But a wildly different outcome if you don't adjust your force.

That's gentleness — *using only the amount of force necessary*. It's strength under control. Nothing more.

Some situations require grit and push. Others require careful, precise handling. The gentle man discerns the difference — when power is better restrained than unleashed.

Gentleness is power that doesn't dominate. Truth that doesn't crush. Leadership that doesn't bulldoze. It's countercultural. And radically Christlike.

You want to be trusted? Be gentle. Your tone shapes your influence.

AT WORK: STRONG AND STEADY

Gentleness isn't weakness — it's precision. The mature man knows how much force is *actually needed* and no more. He isn't careless with his words or his authority — especially at work.

A gentle man ...

- Gives correction without condescension
- Leads his team without shaming or barking
- Uses authority to protect and build up, not dominate
- Doesn't let urgency excuse unkindness

It's been said that employees don't quit jobs — they quit *harsh bosses*. Gentleness keeps your leadership sharp and human.

"In a world where you can be anything, be kind. And when you must be firm — be measured."
— Unknown

THE COACH WHO NEVER CURSED

Tony Dungy, Super Bowl-winning coach, led teams with conviction, but never raised his voice. He believed you didn't need to scream to be strong. He coached with calm, clarity, and consistent discipline — and he earned deep respect.

Dungy said, *"Be uncommon. Be the kind of man who can handle pressure without blowing up, and success without gloating."*

That's gentleness in leadership. Steady. Quietly powerful.

CHALLENGE QUESTIONS

- Q.** What triggers your harshness — and how can you surrender it to God?
- Q.** How do people experience your strength: as protection... or pressure?
- Q.** Where do you need to lead with a softer voice and a steadier heart?

SCRIPTURAL CROSS-REFERENCES

- Proverbs 15:1 – "A gentle answer turns away wrath..."
- Galatians 6:1 – "Restore them gently..."
- Matthew 11:29 – "I am gentle and humble in heart..."

PRAYER

Lord, I don't want to be known for noise, but for calm strength. Make me the kind of man who can be firm without being forceful, and clear without being cold. Teach me the strength of gentleness — the kind that reflects You.

ACTION STEP

This week, *someone* will frustrate you, disappoint you, or test your patience. Don't power up. Don't prove a point. Instead, take a breath. Consider what you know of them — or what you *don't*.

What might they really need from you?

Respond with gentleness — because that's who you're becoming.

GENTLENESS

Responding with calm, steady leadership. Using strength to protect, not control. Speaking truth with care. Being a man people feel safe around.

GARMENT 5: PATIENCE

UNIFORM OF A GODLY MAN SERIES

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

THE GRIT OF PATIENCE

We want results. Progress. Movement. Now.

But beneath the drive and ambition, we're often running hot—restless, irritated, frustrated when people or plans don't move at our pace.

That's why we need this fifth garment.

Patience is the strength to trust God's pace—and the grit to give grace when people don't move, respond, or care like we think they should. It shows up in traffic, in team meetings, in unanswered texts, and in prayers that seem to bounce off the ceiling.

This is more than waiting.

It's staying anchored when you don't feel in control—because you trust the One who is.

PATIENCE AT WORK

Patience at work is rare—and powerful. It shows up when:

- You pray first, even when your experience could “just get it done”
- You wait for clarity and peace instead of forcing action
- You choose what's right over what's convenient or quick
- You invest in someone who's struggling, instead of cutting ties too soon
- You leave room for compassion to reveal what's *really* going on

Patience doesn't kill productivity—it refines it. God gets more done through surrendered men than hurried ones.

“Hurry is the enemy of love and the assassin of wisdom.”

— Anonymous

PERSPECTIVES ON PATIENCE

Let's be clear: Paul wasn't just telling us to slow down in Colossians 3:12. Patience is a posture. A mindset. A spiritual grip that stays steady in pressure and delay.

Here are five lenses from trusted voices that help us see what it really means to put on patience:

1. John Mark Comer — Patience is Submission to God's Pace

Comer reminds us that most of our impatience isn't about the task—it's about control. We want outcomes *now* because we think our timing is best. But patience is slowing your pace to match God's. Not pushing past Him.

2. Eugene Peterson — Patience is Long Obedience

Faithfulness is forged in rhythm, not adrenaline. Peterson called patience a *long obedience in the same direction*. That's spiritual manhood—not quitting when it's hard or when you don't see instant applause.

3. Tim Keller — Patience is Trust in God's Wisdom

Keller teaches that God may delay answers not because He's unwilling, but because He's wise. There may be a bigger story in play. A truly patient man doesn't just wait—he trusts.

4. Andrew Murray — Patience is Surrender

Before anything even stalls, the humble man releases control. He isn't surprised by setbacks — he's already surrendered the outcome.

5. Dallas Willard — Patience is Trained Composure

Willard believed patience is the fruit of a soul rooted in God. It's not "gritting your teeth" but a kind of anchored peace. You've trained your heart to stay steady, even when others spin out.

6. Craig Groeschel — The Impact Equation

Then Craig Groeschel ties it all together with this formula:

(CONSISTENCY + FAITHFULNESS) × TIME = LASTING IMPACT

- Consistency mirrors Willard's discipline.
- Faithfulness reflects Peterson's long obedience.
- Time assumes trust in God's wisdom and timing (Comer, Keller, Murray).

If you're aiming for real, lasting impact, patience isn't optional. It's the multiplier.

PATIENCE AND THE POWER OF GRATITUDE

Most guys think patience is just waiting for something to change. But if you're only looking ahead, you'll miss what's already good.

Gratitude is what re-wires your soul in the waiting.

Think of it like generosity. People often say, *"I'll give more when I make more."* But if you can't give now, you won't give later.

Gratitude works the same way. If you don't learn to be thankful now, you'll stay empty — even when you get what you want.

A truly patient man doesn't obsess over what's missing. He thanks God for what *is*. And in doing that, he trains his soul to receive what's *next* — without entitlement, envy, or rush.

"Contentment is the soil where patience grows."

— not a quote, but it could be.

CHALLENGE QUESTIONS

- Q.** What tends to trigger your irritation when things move slower than you'd like?
- Q.** Who around you needs more grace than judgment from you this week?
- Q.** Where are you trying to control outcomes instead of surrendering them to God, seeking His wisdom, and trusting His timing?
- Q.** What can you genuinely thank God for in your current situation—even if it's not what you hoped for yet?

SCRIPTURAL CROSS-REFERENCES

- James 1:4 – "Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete..."
- Romans 12:12 – "Be patient in affliction, faithful in prayer."
- 2 Peter 3:9 – "The Lord is patient with you..."
- Proverbs 14:29 – "Whoever is patient has great understanding..."
- Ecclesiastes 7:8 – "The end of a matter is better than its beginning, and patience is better than pride."

PRAYER

Father, I want to move when You move—not before. Teach me to wait with peace, to walk with trust, and to work with faithfulness. I surrender my calendar, my expectations, and my need for speed. And I thank You now for what I don't yet see. You are good, even in the slow work.

ACTION STEP

Before you jump into today's to-do list, stop.

Pray. Ask God what He wants you to *know* about the things on your calendar.

Don't start with tasks. Start with trust.

"Seek first the Kingdom of God..." (Matthew 6:33)

PATIENCE

The quiet strength to stay steady when nothing's moving—and the faith to believe that God is.