

Resonate

BIBLE STUDY

**“FASHION TIPS:
GET THE LOOK”**

The Designer of the universe is willing to give you fashion tips for the heart. Are you willing to listen? He wants you to be as glorious as He. Imagine having a heart that is as beautiful as heaven's King. This week we will discover what this kind of heart looks like and will also learn how we can get "the look".

DAY 1

The Word

Today's Scripture:

Colossians 3:12; James 1:2-4; Ephesians 5:18

Have you ever looked back at baby pictures and wondered, "What was my parent thinking to dress me in that outfit?" Styles come and go. We look back and question, "How did we ever think that it looked good?" In a short amount of time, a favorite outfit can become a faux pas! But there is one thing that will never go out of style: a properly dressed heart.

Colossians 3:12

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

Verse 12: If you desire to know God's will for your life, here it is: He wants your heart to be like His. Every circumstance is being weaved together by the Master Designer's hand to mold you into the image of Christ. His heart is one of "compassion, kindness, humility, and gentleness". The Lord desires that the ones He loves to be like Him. Look again at the beginning of this verse.

Colossians 3:12a

¹²Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved...

Verse 12: You are chosen by God. You have been made holy by the atoning blood of Jesus. You are dearly loved. Because of the thoughts and the feelings that God has towards you, He wants you to be the same way towards Him and towards others. Is this not true for any parent? You want your child to love you as you have loved him. You want your child to live a life that is good to himself, to you, and to others. You want what is best for your child. God knows that the best thing in the universe is a heart like His. He makes it clear what that heart looks like so that we will know what we are striving for.

The Lord does not want us to have to guess at His will. Often many people are confused about the direction that God wants them to go. They wonder about what they should or should not do. The overlying objective of God in your life is to make you like

Christ. When you let this be the leading factor in your life, then you will view circumstances not as “Which way to go” but instead as “What will make me more like Christ.” This will lead to expectation instead of dread. You will welcome each situation as one designed by God to bring growth into your life.

James 1:2-4

²Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. ⁴Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

Verse 2-5: It is through perseverance that the will of God is completed in your life. Each day you choose to put on the heart of God which, over time, will help you grow into maturity. The sign of maturity is to not be lacking in anything. In other words, you are filled. What are you to be filled with? The Spirit, of course!

Ephesians 5:18

¹⁸Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.

Verse 18: The Spirit has the heart of God for He is God. Therefore, the Spirit is the One who fills your heart with the heart of God. Maturity is won by perseverance. Perseverance is achieved by daily progress. What are we to progress in? The ways of God. His ways, shown by His heart, are outlined in Colossians 3:12. Each day we choose whether to clothe ourselves with His ways or our own. His ways leads us to understanding more of His will.

Do you see the connection? God’s will for your life is to make your heart like His. So, every circumstance you go through can bring you joy for it is being used to achieve God’s will in your life. If each day you focus on putting on the heart of God, then you will always line up with His will. Over time, this perseverance will lead to your maturity so that you will easily detect the Lord’s will. Now, we can help the maturity process by determining each day to put on “compassion, kindness, humility, and gentleness”. These godly characteristics enable us to better determine the will of God for our hearts will be beating in tune with His.

Up Close and Personal

Pray that your heart will become more like the heart of God.

How can the will of God be found by following the heart of God?

Why would daily perseverance in the ways of God help us to readily discover the will of God?

How does knowing that the will of God in your life is to make your heart like His help you in your decision making processes?



Today's Scripture:

Colossians 3:13; Matthew 18:21-35

The Word

Resentment. Bitterness. Anger. Revenge. Do you hold onto any of these? Is there someone in your life with whom you still harbor ill feelings? Did that person do something terrible to you and you are not willing to let him or her “off the hook”. Let the Word of God plead with you:

Colossians 3:13

¹³Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

Verse 13: I believe forgiveness is a difficult subject to address. I do not know your hurts and pains. I do not know what memory still evokes an ache in your heart. I have heard, seen, and experienced bad things from people. We all have. Each one of us can name someone whom has deeply offended us. However, this verse is not for that person who is on your mind. This verse is for you. You are asked by God to forgive.

I want to clear up any misconceptions about what forgiveness is and what it is not. Forgiveness is simply not having a debt owed to us. We no longer think or feel like a person is indebted to us for their actions. They may have been wrong. We do not minimize the sin committed against us. Instead, we no longer expect them to make up for whatever they did. In truth, can the hurt caused to us ever be erased? It cannot be undone. What happened, happened. That cannot be changed.

Forgiveness is not trust. I can forgive someone by no longer expecting that person to “owe” me. I can forgive him by not holding his action against him. However, I do not have to place myself back into the same situation. For example, if someone betrayed my confidence, I can forgive that person for the gossip she shared about me. However, I do not have to trust her by telling her my personal thoughts again. Or, if someone borrowed something from me and then broke it due to willful neglect, I can forgive him

for what he did. I do not have to trust him with another one of my possessions. Forgiveness and trust are two different things.

God calls us to forgive others. He wants us to release our bitter feelings towards others. He wants us to commit the people to Him for He alone is the Judge of their actions. We can only do this by remembering the fact that He has the right to judge us, yet He chose to give us mercy instead. As we have been forgiven, we can forgive others. We are only mimicking the heart of God when we forgive for He has given us the example of forgiveness. This truth is best explained through this story:

Matthew 18:21-35

²¹Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?"

²²Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.

²³Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. ²⁵Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.

²⁶"The servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.' ²⁷The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.

²⁸"But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii. He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded.

²⁹"His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.'

³⁰"But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. ³¹When the other servants saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed and went and told their master everything that had happened.

³²"Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. ³³Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' ³⁴In anger his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.

³⁵"This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart."

Verse 21-35: Forgiveness is part of the heart of God. The Lord wants us to have His heart. He does not ask us to do anything that He Himself has not modeled for us. He has forgiven us so we in turn can forgive others. To not forgive damages only ourselves. Forgiveness releases us from the negative consequences of bitterness. Our hearts are free to become more and more like the heart of God!

Up Close and Personal

Praise God for the forgiveness that He has given you.

If there is someone in your life with whom you are struggling to forgive, write a prayer to God beseeching His help to give this person mercy.

Why is forgiveness only possible in light of the fact that we have been forgiven?

DAY
3

Today's Scripture:

Colossians 3:12-14; 1 Corinthians 13:1-7

The Word

I am prone to getting cold. I often layer my clothes. Jackets are a big part of my wardrobe. Even during summer months I bring a jacket along with me due to air-conditioning. The extra layer shields me from the uncomfortable pain of being cold.

The wardrobe of our hearts also has layers. We are to be dressed in "Compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience" and forgiveness. But overall all of these virtues, we must wear love.

Colossians 3:14

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

Verse 14: Love is the foremost virtue. Being the outer layer, it is the quality that should be the most evident in our lives. All of the other virtues are filtered through our love. In

other words, we show compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience” and forgiveness to others because we love them. None of these qualities can be shown without love. It is love that makes all of our virtues worthwhile.

1 Corinthians 13:1-3

¹If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. ²If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. ³If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.

Verse 1-3: Love is what makes all of our thoughts and actions have purpose and meaning. Without love, our lives are meaningless. That is why it is the outer layer in our hearts. Love should dictate our every move. Just as a jacket meets the cold wind and provides a barrier to the elements, so our love meets our circumstances and provides a barrier to our negative response. In other words, if I face every situation with love, then I will not commit sin against God or others. Instead, I will filter my circumstances through love and respond with “compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience” and forgiveness.

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

⁴Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

Verse 4-7: When we are wrapped in love than we will deal with each person and each situation as Jesus Christ would. His life is a legacy of love. As sinners we deserve eternal punishment. Yet, He filters our offense against Him through His love and we receive His “compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience” and forgiveness. Because He loves us, we can love others. The calling of God for us to put on the virtue of love is in response that we are loved.

Colossians 3:12-14

¹²Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ¹³Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Verse 12: You are dearly loved. Because of the love given to you, clothe yourself in love. This one virtue is the greatest protection from living like the world. Love is from God alone for He is love. When your heart is surrounded by love you will live like God.

Up Close and Personal

Praise God for the love He has given you. Ask Him to clothe your heart with His love.

How does love bind together all of the other virtues?

Why should love be our first response to every situation?

How does the quality of love keep us from living like the world?

In what situation in your life do you need to have filtered through love so that you can respond in a way that pleases God?

DAY
4

Today's Scripture:

2 Corinthians 5:20; Ephesians 6:19-20; Colossians 3:12; 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1

The Word

Ambassadors are chosen to go to other nations and represent their home country in a foreign land. These ambassadors work to serve as a bridge between the two nations. Their goal is to provide amicable and peaceable relations between the two countries. These are not soldiers on a search and destroy mission. Instead, these are men and women who showcase their home nation in a way that would cause foreigners to love it as well.

You are an ambassador. You have been chosen by God to showcase your "home", which is heaven itself. You are living as a foreigner in a foreign land. You are to work to help others bridge the gap between the world and heaven. You want others to fall in love with Your King, as you yourself have.

2 Corinthians 5:20

²⁰We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.

Verse 20: An ambassador lives out his culture in the middle of a foreign culture. The ambassador does not become like the people around him, instead his identity is unique in the foreign land. He lives with the people in peace but does not become a part of the people. We, too, live in this world but we are not of this world. To become like the world would disqualify us as the ambassadors of heaven. We are to be ambassadors no matter the reaction of the world.

Ephesians 6:19-20

¹⁹Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

Verse 19-20: Paul was an ambassador for Christ. Even though this connection to his home country led him to jail, he continued to be an ambassador while chained in prison. To what extreme are you willing to go to be an ambassador for Christ? Some of you may already be backing down. You think, “Hey, I don’t want to offend anyone. I don’t want to make waves.” But by backing down, you are forsaking your calling.

Colossians 3:12

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

Verse 12: You are God’s chosen people. You are a part of His kingdom. As one of His citizens, you have a responsibility to act like His child in this world. Only by acting like one of His own can you be a witness to others. The main goal of our lives in growing in Christ likeness is to win the hearts of others to this endeavor. We want others to come “home” with us. If our lives reflect the heart of God, others will notice. They, too, may become a part of His people.

1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1

³¹So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. ³²Do not cause anyone to stumble, whether Jews, Greeks or the church of God— ³³even as I try to please everybody in every way. For I am not seeking my own good but the good of many, so that they may be saved. ¹Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.

Verse 31-1: In whatever we do, we are to live for the glory of God. We are His people and we need to live in a way that reflects Him. Thus, believers and non-believers alike

will understand where our allegiance is. They will notice that we live for the good of others. And our overwhelming purpose is to see people come to salvation. As we live out the heart of God, we lead others to God.

You are chosen. You are an ambassador to this world. The Lord desires for you to live out His heart. We have studied this week what His heart looks like. The people of this world are studying you to see if your heart looks like the world or like this God that you proclaim to know. Are you being an ambassador in the foreign land or are you just on vacation? An ambassador knows his job and works at it daily. A tourist just takes in the sights. Which are you?

Up Close and Personal

Ask the Spirit to show you how you can become a better ambassador to the world in behalf of your King.

How do we live out our “Heavenly culture” in the midst of the world?

As ambassadors, we do not hide our identity. Our purpose is to showcase Whom we represent. How do you need to show others the heart of God?

How does being an ambassador of God link to seeing people come to salvation?

Who have been ambassadors on behalf of God who showcased the heart of God to you?

How did these people impact you?



The Word

Today's Scripture:

Colossians 3:12-14; 2 Corinthians 1:3-4; 2 Timothy 2:24-26; Philippians 2:3-4; Proverbs 15:1; James 5:7-9; Matthew 6:12-15; Mark 12:30-31

Colossians 3:12-14

¹²Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ¹³Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Verse 12-14: These were the virtues that we studied this week. However, reading something and living it out are two different things. Today, we are going to pray through each virtue. We will model our prayer after Scripture. To pray the Word of God means that you are always praying the will of God. I will give you examples of how to do this throughout the study. My hope is that you will make praying Scripture a continual part of your Bible study habits. If possible, please pray aloud.

Compassion

2 Corinthians 1:3-4

³Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, ⁴who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.

Verse 3-4: I do praise You God for You have shown me compassion and comfort numerous times in my life. You have been near me through difficult times. You have heard my cries. Thank you for being compassionate to me. With the compassion You have shown me, help me to show compassion to others. You have taught me compassions so that I may now minister to others who are in need. I know that there are people around me in need of Your heart being shown to them. Let me be an instrument of Your compassion here on earth.

Kindness

2 Timothy 2:24-26

²⁴And the Lord's servant must not quarrel; instead, he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. ²⁵Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, in the hope that God

will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, ²⁶and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.

Verse 24: My Lord, I am Your servant. Because You are my King, I desire to do what pleases you. I ask forgiveness of my quarrelsome ways. I repent now and choose to be kind to others because you have been kind to me. May I treat others with kindness despite intense opposition that I may receive. Help me to focus on the fact that kindness is an example of Your heart. It is Your kindness that led me to repentance. May I be a witness of kindness to others who are in need of Your salvation.

Humility

Philippians 2:3-4

³Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. ⁴Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Verse 3-4: Merciful One, please forgive my selfish and vain actions. I confess that I have lived for myself in the past. I want to choose another way. Help me to live for others. Instead of fighting my way to the top, I want to consider others better than myself. Teach me humility so that I may live a life that helps others. I want to be a benefit to the kingdom work and in order to do this I must stop looking out for myself. I will trust you to look out for me as I pour myself into the lives of others.

Gentleness

Proverbs 15:1

*¹ A gentle answer turns away wrath,
but a harsh word stirs up anger.*

Verse 1: Precious Savior, You know the depravity of my heart. I confess how wicked I can be. I have stirred up anger by using harsh words. Forgive me. I thank you for Your mercy. Please help me to change my ways. I desire to be gentle with my words. Let me speak in a way that pleases you. How often you have answered me in gentle ways. Let me reflect that gentleness to others. May I not try to “win” arguments but instead speak in a way that brings reconciliation to my relationships.

Patience

James 5:7-9

⁷Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains. ⁸You too, be

patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. ⁹Don't grumble against each other, brothers, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!

Verse 7-9: God of Grace, help me to be patient with others. A farmer is patient while the seed grows. Help me to accept others for where they are in life. Some people are sprouting seeds while others are a full harvest. Let me be patient with others as You are patient with me. You know that we are all developing into the image of Christ. You accept where I am and work with me to make me more like Your Son. Help me to accept where others are and walk with them towards heaven, which is a day coming soon. Forgive me for my words spoken against others. You alone are Judge. Instead, may my words and actions reflect the patience that You have shown me.

Forgiveness

Matthew 6:12-15

¹²*Forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.*
¹³*And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one.'* ¹⁴*For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. ¹⁵But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.*

Verse 12-15: Merciful Redeemer, please forgive my sin. I have committed wrongs against You. I am sorry. Cleanse me from the stain of sin. I believe that you do forgive me and I receive Your mercy. Because of the mercy given to me, I will give mercy to others. You know the people who have sinned against me. By Your Name, I will forgive them for I do not want my bitterness to cause me to fall into more sin. I want to be protected from the enemy who is waiting for access into my life. He knows that if I do not forgive others that my relationship with you is damaged. This can enable him to wage attacks against me. I want to prevent his plot against. I release those who have hurt me so that I will not bear consequences of not forgiving them. Now, I am free to receive Your mercy and grace. Please pour them into my heart and soul.

Love

Mark 12:30-31

³⁰*Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.'* ³¹*The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."*

Verse 30-31: Dear Heavenly Father, help me to love you with all of my heart and all of my soul, all of my mind, and all of my strength. Enable me to love You with every part of myself. Because of my love for You, I want to love others for they were created in your image. Help me to love people as I love myself. I want to treat them in the way

that I would want to be treated. Only You can help me live this out. I desire to follow all of your commands and I know that to love You and others is to fulfill Your purposes here on earth.