



As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful.

Colossians 3:12-15
NRSV

"To Love and to Cherish"

February 7 & 9, 2020

Last week: In the community of Christ, singleness should never be synonymous with _____. Relationships and marriage can be the source of our greatest _____ and our greatest _____. Your marriage can be one of life's _____ blessings and sources of strength.

Choosing the Right Outfit

In Colossians 3, Paul teaches the Colossian Christians to live _____ following Jesus' example.

He instructs them to _____ themselves with virtue: compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, patience, and above all, love. In the ancient world, _____ was contemptible, not virtuous.

Learning to Dance

In early marriage, we learn how to _____ life with someone whose dreams, desires, and expectations are different than ours. _____ in marriage is not about who gets *their* way, but finding *our* way together.

We grow in love by continually seeking to _____ our beloved better.

"There are few greater gifts a couple can give each other than the joy that comes from feeling known and understood." John Gottman

When Two Become Three (or more)

In one study, _____ of couples experienced a significant decline in marital happiness when they became parents.

Paul goes on to instruct the church to _____ and give _____.

We tend to notice what we _____ for.

When we're stressed and frustrated, it's easy to miss the many ways our spouses _____ us.

Nurture fondness and admiration of your spouse by noticing and _____ their acts of love.

As we learn "to love and to _____" our spouses, our marriages can become sources of blessing for us, our children, and the world.

Action Steps

1. Write a letter of appreciation to your spouse or loved one.
2. Ask, "How can I make you feel loved this week?" Do what they say.