

CHRISTIAN ADORNMENT

TEXT: COLOSSIANS 3:12-17

Is there anything more disappointing than seeing someone you thought had real Christian character act downright ugly?

■ Carl Lundquist in *Silent Issues of the Church*, writes: “Henry Wingblade used to say that Christian personality is hidden deep inside us. It is unseen, like the soup carried in a tureen high over a waiter’s head. No one knows what’s inside -- unless the waiter is bumped and he trips!”

Just so, people don’t know what’s inside us until we’ve been bumped. But if Christ is living inside, what spills Out IS the fruit of the Spirit.” (Larson, 23)

We would all agree that life can be a bit bumpy and that none of us are perfect. We would probably all agree on what good Christian character is. But can we all say that our Christian character is fully intact?

Paul shares several *exhortations* for those looking to maintain their Christian character in a bumpy world.

I. LIVE AS GOD’S PEOPLE (vv. 12-13).

A. God’s people adorn themselves with attributes of their Father (v. 12).

B. God’s people are merciful like their Father (v. 13).

II. LOVE AS GOD’S PEOPLE (vv. 14-15).

- A. When God's people adorn themselves with love, unity is the result (v. 14).
- B. Peace among God's people is the outgrowth of the love of God (v. 15).

III. LIFT AS GOD'S PEOPLE (vv. 16-17).

- A. God's people lift up one another (v. 16).
- B. God's people lift up the name of Jesus (v. 17).

CONCLUSION

■ “On a wall near the main entrance to the Alamo in San Antonio, Texas, is a portrait with the following inscription: James Butler Bonham – no picture of him exist. This portrait is of his nephew, Major James Bonham, deceased; who greatly resembled his uncle. It is placed here by the family that people may know the appearance of the man who died for freedom.

No literal portrait of Jesus exist either. But the likeness of the Son who makes us free can be seen in the lives of His true followers.” (Larson, 261)

The *exhortations* that Paul shared can help us to always be mindful of letting the world see Jesus in our lives. What are you showing the world today?

References

Larson, Craig B. (Ed.). (1993). *Illustrations for preaching and teaching*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books.