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Treichel Wedding

Colossians 3:12-14

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

Theme: Live in the Love of the Lord.

I'm sure that over the years and especially the last few months you have been given a lot of advice about marriage. Everyone who is married likes to think that they are experts on marriage, so they give out advice—on how to live with each other, raise children, how to make and follow a budget and so on. Some of it is good solid advice, others you pretty much discarded as soon as you heard it. But allow me today to give you one last bit of advice right before you get married: If you want to have the perfect marriage, if you want to never have any problems, or fights, or disagreements, if you want to be completely happy together there is only one thing you have to do: Live a life of love. That it; it's as simple as that—if you always love than your marriage will be a perfect one.

But what exactly is love? Paul answers that question in one of the lessons you chose for today, 1 Corinthians 13. Just take verses four and five for an example of what love truly is, **Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.**

In Colossians, the portion of Scripture that I chose to share with you today Paul expresses some of the same thoughts; in fact he gives us seven virtues Christians have while dealing with each other, **clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another.** If you want to have the perfect marriage then you need to have compassion, that is a deep rooted care and concern that leads to mercy; Kindness, that is doing nice things for each and not talking bad about each other; Humility: not building yourself up while tearing down your spouse; gentleness: dealing with

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her in a caring and nurturing way whether it is in the body or the emotions; Patience, not getting angry or upset when he doesn't do what you want him to do when you want him to do it; Bearing with each other, to put up with all the weaknesses and the annoyances of each other; And finally forgiveness, freely forgiving each other no matter what they might do to you and not holding that sin against each other—not bringing it up again a long way down the road in order to manipulate each other. All seven of these virtues can be summarized by one word: love; as Paul says, **over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.**

So what is love? It's not really a feeling or emotion. It's not the warm fuzzies you get when you are with each other. Love first and foremost is an action. So when I say that if you want to have a perfect marriage you must love, I'm not saying you must have always have a deep emotional connection with each other, but rather that you act out that love.

So it should be clear that you can't love perfectly; you won't have perfect marriage. You are a sinner who is marrying a sinner. There will be times when you fight, when you aren't patient, when you aren't humble, or gentle, or kind.

So perhaps that advice I just gave you about all you have to do is love isn't the best advice. Not that it was wrong, it's still true, but it's simply unattainable—impossible for either of you, for anyone, to follow. Perhaps it's better advice to say, “throughout your marriage, live in love of the Lord.”

For he shows us what true love is. Even though we were his enemies who constantly fail to obey his commands, he sent his son into the world to suffer and die. And that son, Jesus Christ, lived a perfect life that we weren't able to—not once did he fail to show love to someone, even his enemies. Yet he was arrested and executed on a cross. But it was on that cross that Christ paid for our sins, suffering through the eternal punishment that we deserve, dying in our place and crediting us with his perfect life. This is love. As the Apostle John says, **This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.**

The love of Christ is that he gave himself up for those who sin against him on a constant basis; that he forgives everyone, including you, Bill

and Amy. If God wanted to he could strike us down for each and every sin; But **God is patient, not wanting anyone to perish.** He extended your time on this earth so you wouldn't die when living in sin. And in love he brought to repentance; he forgave you. Your sin will not be counted against you for Christ's suffering and death paid for the sins of the whole world, including yours.

Moved by his love for you in that he didn't hold this and other sins against you but freely forgave you, you want to show love by forgiving each other. As Paul says in the last part of verse 13, **Forgive as the Lord forgave you.** Trust me, and you already know this, there will be plenty of opportunities to forgive each other—to forgive each other just as Christ forgave you.

So throughout your marriage, **put on love**; clothe yourselves in Christ. As you dress up for wedding day in your best, so cover your marriage in the best thing possible: Christ and his Word. What does that mean? Make Christ and his Word a priority in your life together. Sit down with God's Word together, whether it's the Bible or a devotional book. Worship the Lord on a regular basis; attend Bible Class together. And teach Averie and Adrienne the importance of Christ in all of your lives—and not just with your words, but lead them by example.

Since you are a sinner married to a sinner your marriage won't be perfect; so throughout your marriage live in the love of the Lord. Clothe your lives together in Christ and his love! Be patient, kind, humble, gentle, and compassionate. And forgive—as Christ forgave you. There is such thing as a perfect marriage; but when you live in the love of the Lord, he will bless your life together. Amen.