

# **The Expulsive Power of a New Affection**

**Colossians 3:14**

Paul emphasizes a **contrast of lifestyles** in this passage.

We learn to spiritually interpret every aspect of life through our heavenly-mindedness. We think and live heaven on earth because Jesus lives in us.

Paul gives us two sobering reasons why we need to be active, intentional, and faithful in following through with putting off these sinful desires, thoughts, and actions.

1. *“On account of these things, **the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience...**”*
2. In your **former** life, before Jesus Christ saved you, you **sabotaged** your relationships with selfish, sinful desires.

So, “now you also, lay them all aside... **put off** the old man... **put on** the new man who is **being renewed to a full knowledge** according to the image of the One who created him...”

*Put off* and *put on* help us apply God’s wisdom to worldly problems as we fight a **spiritual battle** against the deceitful desires of our hearts.

The Bible tells us that when we sin against others, and when others sin against us, 100% of the time the truth about what is going on is that the war of sinful desires **in our own hearts** is creating the conflict in our relationships—it's a **heart** problem as our sinful desires **wage war** inside of us and **look** for ways to **get** their way.

God knows how to bring just the right **pressure**, just the right **people**, just the right **circumstances**, and just the right **timing** to your life to keep shaping you and growing you in likeness to Jesus.

*“He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.” (Phil. 1:6)*

*“And **beyond** all these things **put on love**, which is the perfect bond of unity.”*

Paul is having to say this to us because we will sin against others and we will be sinned against.

In verse 14 we come to the heart of the Christlike **quality** of our now-new life.

*“...compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience; bearing with one another, and forgiving each other...”*

Love produces these expressions of our hearts.

“All of the virtues listed in verses 12 and 13 are, on the highest level, manifestations of love; but love is larger than any one of them, indeed, larger than all of them combined.” *(Curtis Vaughan)*



**Expel:** to drive out; to force out or to force away; to discharge or eject.

*having an **expulsive** power* = serves to expel or to drive something out.

**Compel:** we often use and think of in a negative sense; one meaning is, indeed, “to force, overpower, or push toward a course of action.”

“to have a powerful and irresistible effect or influence.”

The love of God is *compelling* in the sense of “having a powerful and irresistible effect; requiring acute admiration, attention, or respect.”

**Fear of the Lord:** having a deep and life defining sense of awe, reverence, and honor towards God.

Your most powerful weapon **against** personal sin and **for** personal holiness is the expulsive power of a new affection.

“We know of no other way by which to keep the love of the world out of our heart, than to keep in our hearts the love of God, than building ourselves up on our most holy faith.”

“Faith works by love; and the way of expelling from the heart the love which transgresses God’s law, is to admit into your heart the love which fulfills God’s law.”

“The best way of casting out (expelling) an impure [desire] is to admit a pure one; and by the love of what is good, to expel the love of what is evil.” *(Thomas Chalmers)*

“Love to Father and the Son simply drains the life out of love for sin, and for the particular habits in which sin expresses itself.”

*(J.I. Packer)*

*“Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. The one who does not love does not know God, because God is love.”*  
(1 John 4:7-8)

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