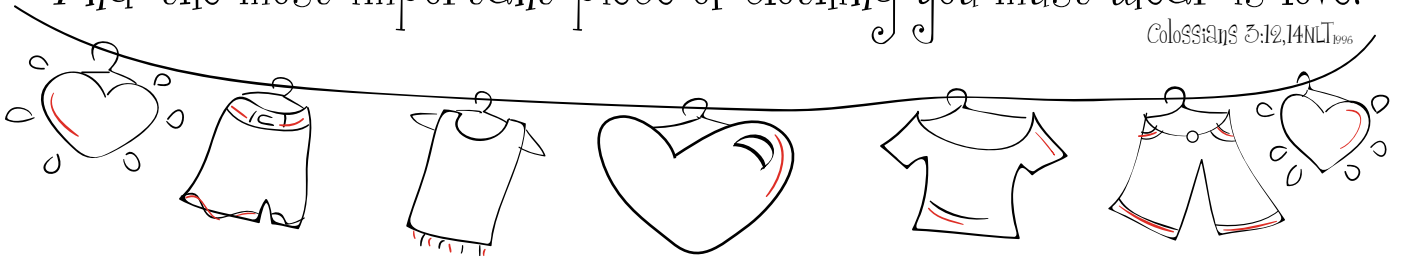


# Clothed in Love

Since God chose you to be the holy people whom He loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

And the most important piece of clothing you must wear is love. Colossians 3:12-14 NLT 1996



First let's take a look at God's love for us in the verses below. God is so good that only after He has already shared His perfect love with us does He ask us to go and share it with others. He equips us first!

Take another look at Colossians 3:12-14. What are the other attitudes of the heart that God wants us to clothe ourselves with? Write them here:

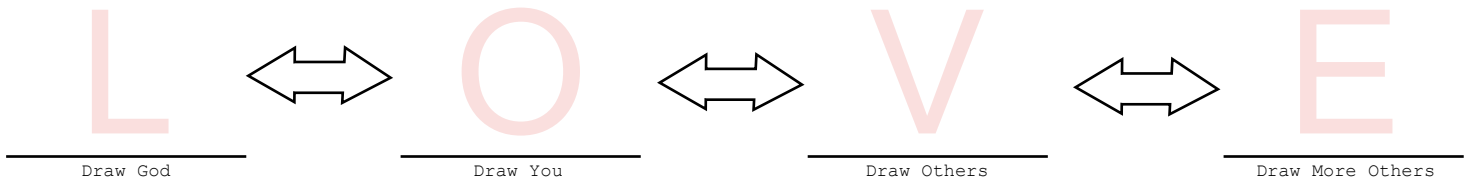
...God is love. 1 John 4:8bNLT

We love each other as a result of his loving us first. 1 John 4:19NLT

For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love. Romans 5:5bNLT

You see, God has already infused us with His love. In fact, it's in you right now. Fully alive, active & operative and waiting to be expressed through you. Yes, you!

Complete the diagram below to experience God's love flow! Notice the arrows go back & forth - that's because once God fills our hearts with His love it becomes a reciprocal cycle of love!



All love originates from God because God is love. In fact let's take another look at Romans 5:5b. The New King James translation says:

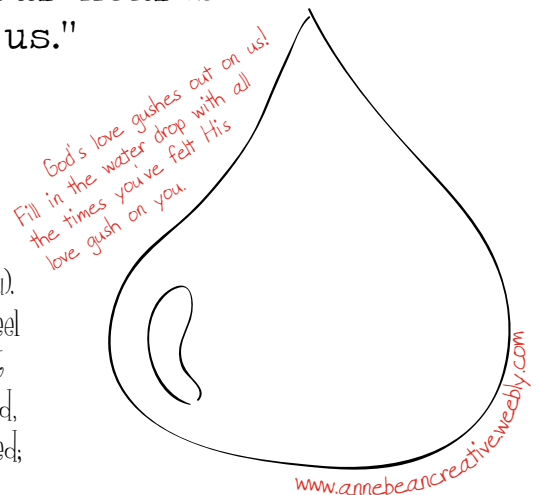
"...the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us."

Circle the words 'poured out' in the verse. Let's look a closer look at their definition:

**Pour out:** shed abroad, shed forth, bestow or distribute largely, to gush out, spill God has poured out His love on us...doesn't it just make you smile?!



I'd like for you to envision your heart (your inner man, the deepest part of you). See it as a container for God's love; a beautiful vase perhaps. Now imagine (feel & see) God's love being poured forth into that open vessel; His love gushing out from Him, saturating you from the inside out - love from all angles, a pure flood, a never-ending flow. The inside of you is drenched, the outside of you is drenched, you are overflowing with His love. How sweet it is to be loved by Him!



Before we move on, let's share a quiet moment with God thanking Him for His magnificent love. Perhaps you need a fresh revelation of God's love for you. If so, put the study down and seek Him. Don't rush it - these quiet moments with God change us. See you soon!

# Clothe the d in Love

Welcome to page 2! I knew you'd make it. Now that we have established that we are drenched in God's love, let's explore more!  
The word used for love in all of these verses is agape.

**Agape: determined, committed & selfless good will, charity, desire to do good to others, desire for the other's best, kindness**

This means that according to Colossians 3:14 the most important piece of clothing we must wear is a 'love patchwork' consisting of all of the above ingredients.

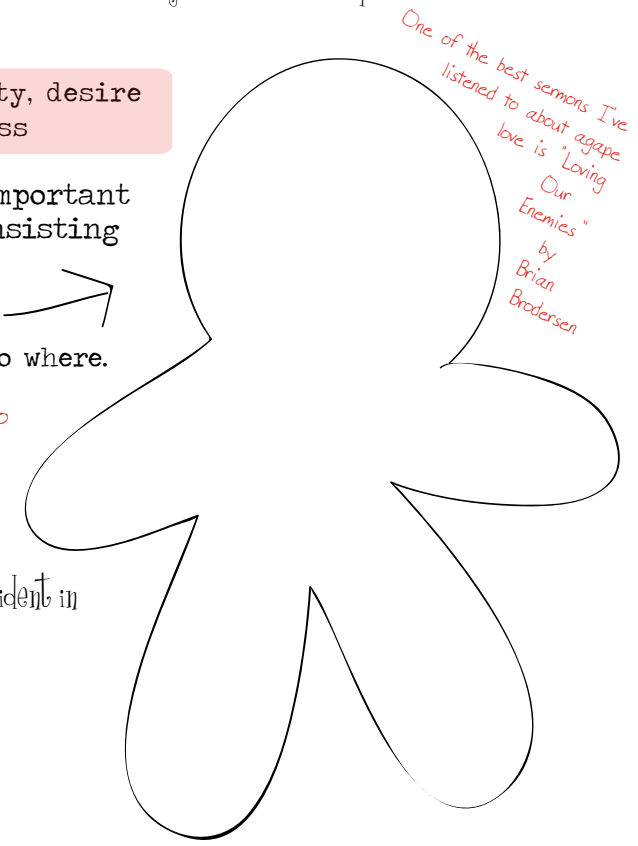
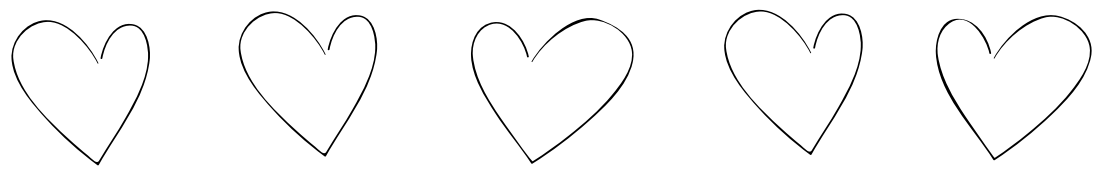
Clothe this mini-you in all the aspects of God's agape love mentioned above. As you do, carefully consider which words go where.

Philosopher Thomas Jay Oord has defined agape as an intentional response to promote well-being when responding to that which has generated ill-being.

Time for a self-check! Read through the following statements and see what Holy Spirit wishes to reveal to you regarding these areas of your life. No condemnation here. This is simply an opportunity to see where God's agape love is very evident in your life and where you may need to focus some of your time and prayers.

- I consistently display agape love to my coworkers.
- I consistently display agape love to my family.
- I consistently display agape love to church members.
- I consistently display agape love to my friends.
- I consistently display agape love to strangers.

Fill in the hearts with the names of the people you desire to cover in God's patchwork of love. Ask God right now to reveal to you new ways of loving those folks!



Last, but not least, let's look at one more important aspect of Colossians 3:14.

## And the most important piece of clothing you must **wear** is love." Colossians 3:14 NLT 1996

The NIV translation says it this way, "...put on love."  
One definition of 'put on' says to sink into like clothing.

What's your favorite piece of clothing?  
How do you feel when you put it on?  
Does God's love make you feel that way?

*My favorites are my black jacket + cheetah rain boots. They make me feel comfortable, warm, protected + fun!*

May we all sink deeper & deeper into God's love so that we may wear it and display it to the world as our finest piece of clothing!

Join me in a closing prayer, won't you?

Father we wholeheartedly thank you for your amazing love which has been poured into our hearts.

We receive it and declare it is operating in our lives. Help us each day to put on love as our most important piece of clothing and share your love with the world. In Jesus' name. Amen.

**i** imagination break

In the morning as you are getting dressed, or even while you're still in bed, close your eyes and imagine (feel & see) yourself sinking into God's agape love.

\*Speak It: "Thank you God that I am clothed in your love today!"