

Follow Wear

Everyone is invited to follow Jesus. Being a sinner doesn't disqualify you. Being a doubter doesn't disqualify you. The goal of following Jesus is a faith that overcomes fear of the future or our current circumstances. It's a faith that gives us peace.

But what do people who follow Jesus look like? What do they wear?

“A new command I give you: **Love** one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

John 13:34-35 (NIV)

“Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Colossians 3:12-14 (NIV)

COMPASSION – your heart breaks for others, you feel it in your “bowels”, you feel what other people are going through or are experiencing, regardless of what they did or didn't do to get themselves in the situation they're in.

KINDNESS – when you loan your strength to someone else, someone needs something done so you do it for them, you extend yourself on their behalf.

HUMILITY – seeing myself as I really am in relationship to other people and to God, viewing myself accurately ... I'm nothing more than a citizen of humanity just like everyone else, there is an equality among human beings, we are peers!

GENTLENESS – the decision to respond to you in light of your strengths and weaknesses instead of responding to you in my strength, deciding to come to your level of strength or weakness as we interact rather than at my level of strength; I will adjust my strength according to your need. Gentle people don't come into the relationship maintaining a posture of superiority regarding who they are, what they know or what they've done. They're NOT condescending!

PATIENCE – deciding to go the speed of another person, you move at the speed of someone else rather than at your speed.

FORGIVENESS – the action God took which heals our broken relationship with Him. It is by the act of forgiveness that we are reconciled with God and others; it allows us to live beyond the power of the past (sin), into a gracious future relationship with God and others.

LOVE – the accurate estimate and the adequate supply of another's need. It's the commitment of my will to your needs and best interests regardless of the cost.

Chick Flick PG = CHK FLK PG

Compassion
Humility
Kindness

Forgiveness
Love
Kindness (again)

Patience
Goodness

Following Jesus means clothing yourself in patience, gentleness, kindness, compassion, humility, forgiveness, and love. That kind of faith is powerful. It's the kind of faith that makes a difference instead of just making a point. Imagine how that kind of faith would change people's perceptions of the church. Imagine how it would change communities . . . nations . . . the world.

Let's Pray!

1. What's your favorite sports team? To what extremes have you gone to show your support for your team?
2. When you think of the word "Christian" what qualities come to mind? Are they positive or negative? Why?
3. Talk about a time when you encountered a Christian who was more interested in making a point than making a difference. How did that person affect the way you view Jesus?
4. In the message, Andy said, "All religions gravitate toward rule keeping instead of relationship building." Do you agree with that statement? Why or why not?
5. Read Colossians 3:12–14. What are some of the challenges to living the kind of life Jesus calls his followers to live?
6. Think of one person in your life who is difficult to love. What is one thing you can do this week to better love that person? What can this group do to support you?

Resource: "Follow" Series – Part 4, Northpoint, Andy Stanley