



MONDAY, MARCH 10

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved,
clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness,
humility, meekness, and patience.

—Colossians 3:12

In a Lenten devotional book focused on women's empowerment, it's challenging to look at the third chapter of Colossians. Among other things, the passage tells wives to be subject to their husbands and instructs slaves to obey their masters. Passages such as these require careful study, but, mostly, they invite a thoughtful reading of the wider context of the gospel message. Jesus reminds us, his followers, again and again that to find our lives, we have to lose them. We have to take up our cross and follow him. We are all servants.

The underlying theme—that which undergirds the gospels—is that we must follow Jesus in all we do, that the cross alone is our focus. Whatever earthly relationships we have are governed by God's more profound desire that we love God and our neighbors. In our various ministries, outside and inside the church, we are called to proclaim and to practice God's love for every person. That task both invites each of us to be a servant and empowers us all.

—**Scott Gunn**