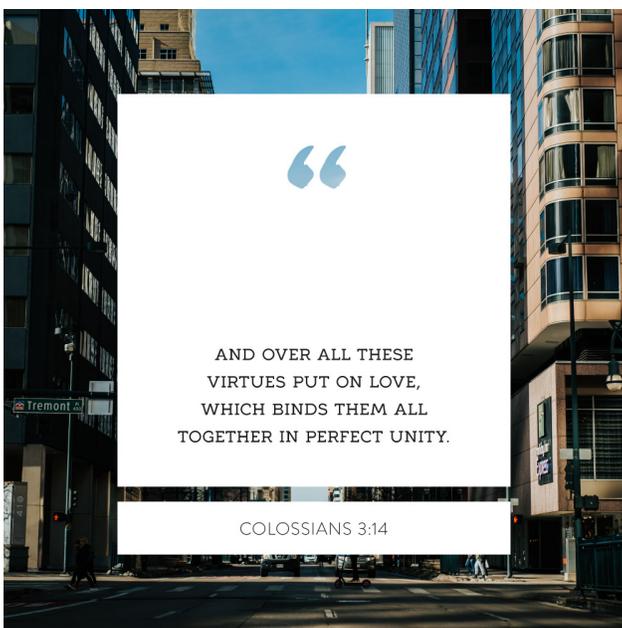


DAY 1

Have you ever had a friend or coworker who always seems to think they're right—even when it's clear that they're NOT? To you—and maybe even the people around you—it's oftentimes clear their thinking and actions are simply off-base. And what's more, every time you try to talk to them about it, the conversation ends up in an argument—the same argument over and over again. It's easy for relationships like this and arguments like these to bring out the worst in us. And yet, for some reason, we have a hard time staying away because we want to show them the error of their ways. However, it's in these instances that sometimes the best thing to do is not to engage them in conversation at all—it's a dead-end going nowhere. And that is what Paul is referring to in this verse. He's not telling us to never disagree with someone. Instead, he's telling us to be careful of

those who only want to argue about what is contrary to Scripture. Is there someone in your life that you need to step away from in conversation for a season, and start praying for them instead?



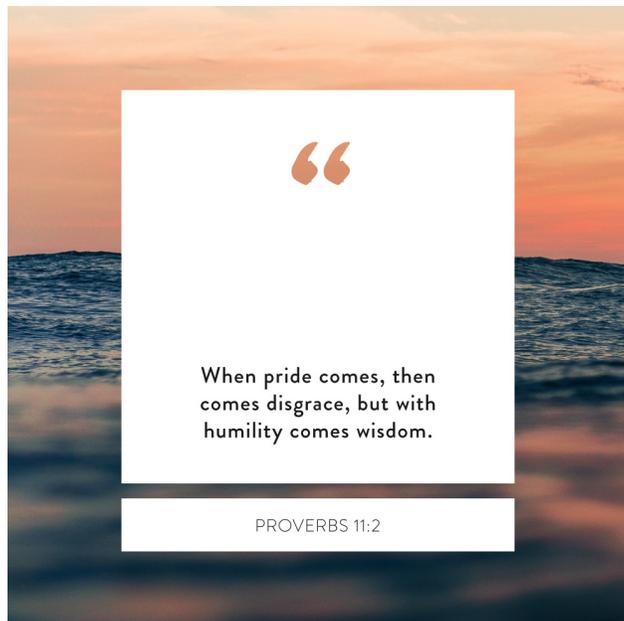
DAY 2

In this verse, Paul tells us to "put on" love—it's something we DO. We can become more loving. But what does this look like practically? To answer that question, we must first define love the way God defines it—and that means taking a look at passages like 1 Corinthians 13 for guidance. When we do, we'll quickly discover the way God defines love, and it will lead us to questions like: Am I patient, kind, and without envy in my relationships? Am I seeking to honor everyone around me? Am I desiring the best for those that God has brought into my life and refusing to hold a "record of wrongs" against them? Put simply, "putting on" love means loving people right where they are. Putting on love means NOT requiring people to meet certain prerequisites before we show them patience, kindness and honor. And putting on

love means NOT demanding that everyone think like us, act like us, share the same tastes, or have the same background. Is there someone you're struggling to get along with or see eye-to-eye with right now? What would it look like for you to "put on" love the next time you see them?



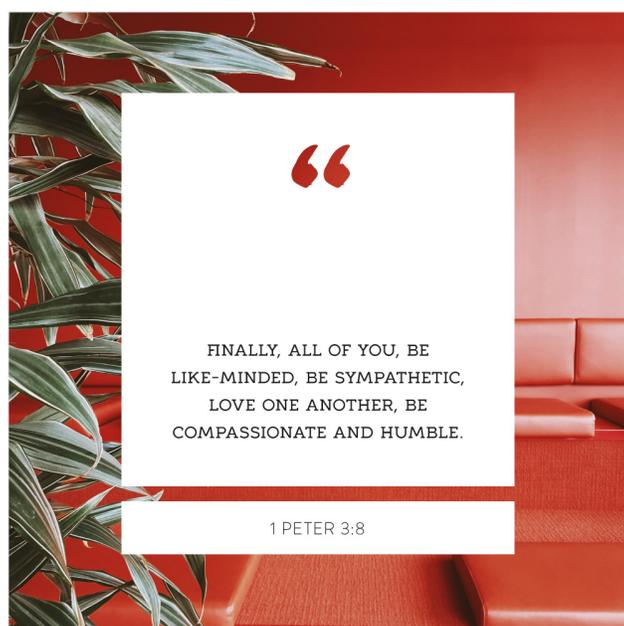
DAY 3



Pride and humility lead us to very different places. Pride tends to say things like, “I’ve got this figured out, I know what I’m doing, and I don’t need anyone else to speak into my life or my choices.” We probably all know people who live in this mindset, and it seldom leads to positive outcomes in the end. On the other hand, humility thinks things like, “I might know what I’m doing, but I’d like others to speak into it, because there’s a lot in this life I don’t know.” This approach to decision-making oftentimes leads to much more promising destinations. You see, today’s verse isn’t just a nice thing to read; it’s a promise! When we learn to be humble and seek God and His ways, He honors that and gives us wisdom for our lives. Of course, having plans and confidence in yourself isn’t a bad thing. But, they can become bad things when we become so fixated on OUR plan and OUR agenda and become so blinded by OUR pride that we remain

unchanging to any input anyone else may be offering of us—from God or from wise, trusted counsel. Is there an area of your life you need to lay down your pride and humbly seek help and counsel from others? Make today the day you begin your search for wisdom. You won’t regret it!

DAY 4



The call to be like-minded can be a little confusing. Are we all supposed to be human clones who talk the same way, wear the same clothes, or have the same hobbies? Of course not! The like-mindedness this verse is referring to has to do with our faith. We are to have the same hope in Jesus as our Savior, same aim to glorify God, and same intention to love our neighbors as ourselves—both believers and unbelievers. In other words, we are like-minded because we have the mind of Christ. Someone who has the mind of Christ is also a sympathetic person—someone who feels the pain and joy of others. We’re able to rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep. We don’t tell others we know how they feel. We simply sit with them and quietly, intently listen to theirs. And finally, someone with the mind of Christ is also someone who truly cares about others. He or she puts the needs of others in front of their

own. Today, write this verse on a notecard and carry it around in your pocket. Use it as a reminder to embrace the mind of Christ today by showing the people around you things like sympathy, love, compassion and humility.



DAY 5



Believe it or not, it's possible to have friends who are more helpful and loyal than even blood relatives. Those are the friends we choose intentionally and wisely, who are godly and whose relationship encourages us to know God more deeply and personally. There is also another friend, one who never fails us or disappoints us, who can always be completely trusted and relied upon: Jesus. In fact, in John 15:15 Jesus calls us His friends because of everything He's shared with us about who God is. It may feel cheesy at first to think of Jesus as your friend, but it can actually be really helpful. God isn't just some disconnected, disinterested Spirit in the sky looking for reasons to punish you. He's a true Friend—Someone who cares about what's going on in your life today, Someone who wants to know what's bothering you, Someone who's there to help and walk with you no matter what you're facing. Some of us have been burned by relationships in the past

and are weary of trusting virtually anyone. But don't let a few tough friendships ruin all relationships—especially your relationship with Jesus, the One who can truly stick closer than a brother and who can breathe new life into us each day. If you were physically hanging out with your close friend Jesus today, what would you want to tell Him?

NOTES, PRAYERS, AND THOUGHTS FOR THIS WEEK. . . .

