

Pastor Geoffrey R. Boyle
Wedding for Anthony and Samantha Scheffer
12 March 2011
Grace Lutheran Churches, Wichita
Colossians 3:12-17

In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit

**“Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved,
compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience,
bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another,
forgiving each other;
as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.
And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect
harmony” (Col 3:12-14)**

Anthony and Samantha, put on love.

Now you’re probably saying to yourselves,

“It’s a little late to put love on now, don’t you think?”

And, in a sense, you’re right.

There’s no doubt you’re madly in love with each other,
that you care for each other,
that you’re best friends,
that you can’t imagine life now without the other.

That love you’ve got in abundance:

Sam: the flowers still come,
his jokes still make you laugh,
he still tells you when he’s hurt, scared, excited, or would rather go fishing.

And Anthony: Sam trusts you,
she tells you everything,
brings joy to your life,
she’s your rock and you’re hers.

Without this sort of love, you wouldn’t be here today.

But even still, we hear, **“And above all, put on love”** (Col 3:14).

What’s this love that still needs to be put on?

What’s this love that’s greater than compassion and kindness, humility, meekness, and patience?

What’s this love that surpasses forgiveness and bearing with each other?

The love that St. Paul asks you to now put on,

to put on in addition to your love for each other,
is Christ Himself.

Jesus is love with flesh and bones, body and blood.

He is Himself the icon, the picture of the Father’s love for you.

And that’s what this wedding is all about.

It’s not like any other wedding—.

You didn't have to come to the Church for the service.
 You didn't have to have a Pastor preach at your wedding.
 You didn't have to even hear the words of the Holy Scriptures at your wedding.

But you didn't want just any other wedding.

You wanted a Christian wedding.

You wanted the Lord Jesus Christ to bind you together in His love.

You wanted His blessing, His promises, His word of approval.

And because of that, the Lord now sends you off as husband and wife.

He sends you out into this world as an image, an icon, a picture of what His love is like.

You two are about to become icons of Christ.

People will look at you,

they'll see your rings,

they'll see your smiles and humility, your kindness and compassion,

they'll see your "doing whatever it takes" for the other.

And seeing this, they'll be looking at a picture of Christ, who *does whatever it takes*.

In fact, nothing confesses so well the Father's love for us in Christ than His saying,

"I'll do whatever it takes."

But it wasn't Jesus who actually spoke these words—

it was Anthony.

Let those words be your confession of love to each other in every circumstance.

When the other love starts to fade,

when the flowers don't come so often,

when work gets in the way,

when you get used to each other,

then remember to put on love.

Remember the Lord Jesus and His love for you,

His "doing whatever it takes" for you—

even coming down from heaven, taking flesh, and making His way to the cross—

all for you.

And then come to the place where He promises to be for you:

at this altar in this sanctuary gathered around His word—

where He forgives all your sins and comes to you Himself.

He is the love that comes to you over and over again,

who sustains and nourishes your love,

so that in every circumstance, in whatever comes your way,

you stand strong, "giving thanks to God the Father through Him" (3:17).

In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit