**VSCO Christian**

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday August 2nd, 2020

Text: Colossians 3:12-14

# **Intro**

1. Have you heard of a VSCO Girl or VSCO Boy(friend)? (VSCO Girl is more popular term)
2. What is a VSCO anything?
   1. It comes from taking pictures and using filters from the VSCO App (been around since 2011).
   2. The term became a popular one around the end of 2017.
   3. It came to mean the “ideal” or “perfect” girl/boy, picture, or relationship (Just Google, “What is a VSCO Girl?”), regardless if they ever used the app!
   4. They dress (look) and talk a certain way.
   5. In the last couple years it was also used sarcastically to mock & insult the people who dressed, talked, or filtered their pictures a certain way.
3. People have always striven for the “ideal” or what is “perfect” and that has always looked different from culture to culture, time period to time period, and generation to generation!
   1. For Trekkies (fans of Star Trek) the ideal or what is perfect might call to mind The Borg! (a race of aliens that assimilated other races into a hive-mind collective, which was to them, “perfection”)
4. There are similarities between those labeled as VSCO (intentional or not) and Christians!
   1. Christians seek to become the “ideal” or as “perfect” a human being one can become because we follow the only perfect man ever to walk the earth: Jesus Christ!
   2. Saints look and talk a certain way.
   3. Sometimes the world uses “Christianity” as a sarcastic way to mock and insult saints for their choices in life, which make them different!
5. Christians strive to be like Jesus Christ, to become the ideal and perfect child of God!
6. **The Filter**
   * 1. The VSCO App started the VSCO movement (if you want to call it that)
        1. It is an App that allows you to filter your pictures to look as if they were taken by a film camera.
        2. The specific filtered look for VSCO is the 1990’s (fashion, etc.)
     2. Christians filter their perspectives and priorities through the lens of Jesus Christ
        1. Jesus Christ was sinless (II Cor. 5:21; Heb. 4:15)
        2. Jesus was perfect (Heb. 5:9)
        3. Jesus left for us an example to follow (I Pet. 2:21-25)
     3. Christians are called upon to imitate Jesus and conform to His image!
        1. Called to be “perfect,” that is mature, full grown (James 1:4)
        2. Conform to the image of Jesus Christ (Rom. 8:29)
        3. Imitate Jesus (I Cor. 11:1; Eph. 5:1)
     4. When we filter our lives through the perfect example of Jesus Christ we will look and sound different than the world around us!

**The Look**

1. Filtering through the VSCO App has caused a certain look by those who, either filter through it or by choice, wear the clothing and gear that makes for the VSCO image!
   1. Certain fashion choices and other apparel that reminds people of the ‘90’s!
   2. Scrunchies, water bottles (called “hydro-flasks”), lip gloss, backpack purses, and “Save the Turtles” (???) apparel are all part of what accomplishes the look (many tutorials online!)
2. Christians also have a look, a dress code (if you will) – Colossians 3:12-14
   1. Put on Compassion (“Put on” means to “adorn,” “to clothe oneself”)
      1. Jesus showed compassion – *Mt. 9:36; 14:14; 15:32; 20:34; Mk. 1:41; 6:34; 8:2*
      2. Saints are to show compassion!
3. Mt. 5:7: Jesus said the one who shows mercy will receive mercy! (Both merciful, *G1655*, and mercy, *G1653,* mean “compassionate”)
4. Jude 1:21-23: We are to show mercy *(G1656, G1653: compassion)* to the lost and weak in faith!
   1. Put on Kindness
      1. Jesus demonstrated kindness
         1. God showed kindness to mankind through Jesus Christ! In Jesus God’s kindness was extended to man in that we could be saved – *Eph. 2:4-9; Titus 3:4-7*
      2. Saints are to show kindness! *(A fruit of the Spirit – Gal. 5:22)*
5. Because believers have received kindness, we ought to act that way toward others, in showing “brotherly kindness” (II Peter 1:5-7) as a Christian virtue that doesn’t render one unfruitful! (II Peter 1:7-11).
6. Eph. 4:32: We are to be kind, tenderhearted and forgiving to others!
   1. Put on Humility (Humility or meekness is “strength under control”)
      1. Jesus humbled Himself (Mt. 11:29; 26:39; Phil. 2:5-11; Heb. 5:8), so believers ought to humble themselves in service to their Lord and Savior (Phil. 2:5; Heb. 5:9)
         1. Jn. 13:3-17: Jesus washed His apostles’ feet as an example for them to do unto others!
         2. Jesus displayed such humility on the cross! He had the authority to lay down His life and take it back (Jn. 10:18); He submitted to the Father’s will yet had the power to stop it (Mt. 26:39, 53), and allowed Himself to die on the cross (Lk. 23:46)
      2. Saints are to show humility to God and others!
7. Phil. 2:3: “Humility of mind” will regard others as more important than oneself!
8. I Pet. 5:5: Must “clothe” ourselves in (“Put on…”) humility to each other and to God!
   1. Put on Gentleness -- The distinction between “gentleness, or meekness” and “patience” is slight.
      1. Jesus was gentle and meek (II Cor. 10:1)
         1. Mt. 11:28-30: Jesus is “Gentle” *(G4239 praus: mild, meek, humble)* and “Humble” *(G5011 tapeinos: humble, lowly, fig. or lit. humiliated)*
         2. *Mt. 21:1-5: A Gentle King! (Zech. 9:9)*
      2. Saints are to show gentleness! *(A fruit of the Spirit – Gal. 5:23)*
9. Eph. 4:1-2: Saints are called “to walk in a manner worthy of the calling” by walking “with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love.”
10. Phil. 4:5: “Let your gentle spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near.”
    1. Put on Patience
       1. Jesus, the Lord, is patient *(KJV: “Longsuffering”),* not willing for any to perish but to come to repentance! (II Pet. 3:9, 15)
       2. Saints are to show patience! *(A fruit of the Spirit – Gal. 5:22)*
11. Eph. 4:2; Col. 1:11; I Thess. 5:14: Saints are to be patient with each other, and all men!
12. II Tim. 2:24; 4:2: To even correct error “with great patience!”
    1. Put on Forgiveness
       1. Jesus is forgiving
          1. Eph. 1:7: “In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace.”
       2. Saints are to forgive as Jesus forgave us!
13. We are to forgive each other as He forgave us! (Eph. 4:32; Col. 3:13)
14. Remember how much the Lord forgave (Mt. 18:32-34) us and do likewise!
    1. Put on Love
       1. Jesus is Love!
          1. Jn. 13:34-35: Jesus set the standard in knowing and showing love: as He loved us!
          2. Jn. 3:16; Rom. 5:8: Jesus displayed the love of God toward mankind on the cross!
       2. Saints are to show love! *(A fruit of the Spirit – Gal. 5:22)*
15. Mark 12:30-31: We are to love God with all that we are, heart, soul, mind & strength, and to love our neighbor as our self!
16. Mt. 5:43-48; 22:39; Rom. 12:19-21: We are to love our neighbors and even our enemies!
17. I Pet. 2:17: Saints are to “love the brotherhood!” (Eph. 1:15; Col. 1:4: Love for all the saints)!
18. John 13:34-35: Because of the love of Jesus we are to love as He loved us and by that love the world will know us!
19. When saints “put on” these traits of Jesus we clothe ourselves with Christ and share in attributes of God! *(Saints who adorn themselves as such look more and more like Jesus!)*

**The Talk**

1. VSCO Girls have their own language and, apparently, it is very simple to use.
   1. To laugh you make this sound: “Sksksk”
   2. When you make a mistake, are embarrassed, or nervous, you say, “And (an) I oop!”
   3. Because to be VSCO has taken on the meaning of an ideal there seems to also be more, or better, communication in relationships, where both parties are encouraged to talk about their lives, goals, dreams, feelings, etc. (Again, online searches have myriads of examples) --- *All great advice for any couples, & especially when dating under any circumstances!*
2. Christians also have a language and are to be known by their speech
   * + 1. **Col. 4:6:** “Let your speech always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person.”
       2. **I Tim. 4:12:** “Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but rather in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity, show yourself an example of those who believe.”
       3. Saints are not to use “abusive speech” (Col. 3:8)
       4. Saints are to speak the truth in love (Eph. 4:15) – Remember in even correcting error saints are to be gentle (II Tim. 2:24-26).
     1. By our speech others ought to be able to see an example of believers and see Jesus in us!

**Conclusion**

* + 1. Before we can filter our lives through the lens of Jesus and look and sound different than the world around us, we must first put on Jesus!
       1. First, one must be baptized to “clothe” oneself with Christ (Gal. 3:27).
    2. Then after becoming a child of God, saints must continually make sure we are “putting on” the character of Christ! (Col. 3:12-14)
    3. Let us “put on” Christ by adorning our hearts in His character and in obedience to God!
    4. If not a Christian, need to be! Repent and be baptized, “clothing yourself in Christ!”
    5. If a Christian in error…repent of your sins and be renewed! “Put on” Christ’s characteristics!
    6. Whatever your requests, let them be known by coming forward ***NOW*** while we stand and sing!