

UGLY CHRISTMAS SWEATER

Part 4: Ugly Actions

Objective: To challenge us to live as followers of Jesus in every aspect of our lives.

if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation: The old has gone, the new has come!
2 Corinthians 5:17

Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.⁶ Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. ⁷ You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. ⁸ But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. ⁹ Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices ¹⁰ and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. ¹¹ Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.¹³ Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴ And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Colossians 3:5-14

- The pastor said that how we act tells others what we really believe. Do you agree with that? Can you give examples of how actions reveal a persons true beliefs?
- Have you ever seen someone claim to be a follower of Jesus, but live a life that make you question that? How did it make you feel? How did others react to it?
- In Colossians, Paul gives a list of things to put off and things to put on. Which do you think is harder, putting off the old you or putting on the new?
- The pastor said that we can't put on the new by ourselves. We must do it in community. Do you agree or disagree? Why?
- Of the things needed to put on the new, (Scripture, Prayer, Community, Imitating Jesus and Practice) which do you think is the hardest? Which do you need to work on the most?

Consider this week:

- As you navigate the craziness of the holidays, practice responding to people the way Jesus did.

Final Thought: What you your actions tell others about what you believe? Is it the message you want to send?

