



**August 7th, 2022**

**Let's review last week's verses in The Message to give us context for this week's passage:**

And that means killing off everything connected with that way of death: sexual promiscuity, impurity, lust, doing whatever you feel like whenever you feel like it, and grabbing whatever attracts your fancy. That's a life shaped by things and feelings instead of by God. It's because of this kind of thing that God is about to explode in anger. It wasn't long ago that you were doing all that stuff and not knowing any better. But you know better now, so make sure it's all gone for good: bad temper, irritability, meanness, profanity, dirty talk.

Don't lie to one another. You're done with that old life. It's like a filthy set of ill-fitting clothes you've stripped off and put in the fire. Now you're dressed in a new wardrobe. Every item of your new way of life is custom-made by the Creator, with his label on it. All the old fashions are now obsolete. Words like Jewish and non-Jewish, religious and irreligious, insider and outsider, uncivilized and uncouth, slave and free, mean nothing. From now on everyone is defined by Christ, everyone is included in Christ.

So, chosen by God for this new life of love, dress in the wardrobe God picked out for you: compassion, kindness, humility, quiet strength, discipline. Be even-tempered, content with second place, quick to forgive an offense. Forgive as quickly and completely as the Master forgave you. And regardless of what else you put on, wear love. It's your basic, all-purpose garment. Never be without it. (The Message)

**TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: Colossians 3:14-17 (NLT)**

Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony. And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful. Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives. Teach and counsel each other with all the wisdom he gives. Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with thankful hearts. And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father.

**WARM UP**

- Last week's challenge was to ask a spouse or friend if the Holy Spirit's work in your life is evidenced by the characteristics you wear each day. Does anyone want to share what they gained from that conversation?
- What thoughts, ideas, concepts, questions, or other inspiration stood out to you from today's message?

**(Below you will find the main points of this week's sermon along with discussion questions. Feel free to use, reword, or omit questions depending on the needs of your group and the time needed for prayer, care, and fellowship. Thank you for your leadership.)**

**Thought #1 – As each of you move closer to God, it impacts the larger family.**

Verses: Colossians 3:14-15 — Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony. And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful.

- We are called to live in peace with one another — to live in harmony. What does that look like when our unique voices blend with the voices around us? What do you think God is calling us to when he asks us to live in perfect harmony with each other?
- As members of one body, we are called to live in peace! When part of the body of

Christ is struggling to get along, how does that affect the church's ability to lead people into a growing relationship with Christ?

- Paul is saying that we are called to live in harmony and peace and to continually be transformed...to put on the characteristics of Jesus and live among each other above all ... practicing love and forgiveness and grace. When those outside the church see those inside the church not living in harmony, what does that lead them to believe about God and religion?

## Thought #2 – How do we practice harmony?

Verse: Colossians 3:16a — Let the message about Christ, in all its richness fill your lives. Teach and counsel each other with all the wisdom he gives.

- How does studying God's word together help us to live in harmony with one another?
- Share about a time in your life when reading God's word allowed the Holy Spirit to give you wisdom or direction regarding something in your life. In what ways was God's word like a mirror you are looking into? (James 1:22-25)

## Thought #3 – We unite in our singing.

Verse: Colossians 3:16b — Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with thankful hearts.

- God uses songs to align our hearts with His. We recognize the goodness of our God and sing it from our soul. Have you ever struggled to align your heart with the words you are singing?
- Music gives us the opportunity to express our joy and the thanksgiving we are feeling. What lyrics speak to the emotions of joy and gratitude you experience in your relationship with Christ?
- The lyrics of songs reflect the truths found in God's word. Worship and theology

cannot and should not be neatly separated into two distinct things.

- In what ways can music and artistic expressions help cure problems in the church. Worship is meant to unite us, yet it is often the one thing that divides us. Each of our preferences in worship style is a little different than that of our brother or sister. How can we intentionally make sure that our preferences do not create a wedge instead of uniting us in harmony with each other?

## Challenge:

- During the next worship service, be intentional to participate and focus on how the lyrics reflect your heart of worship towards God. Ask God to help you focus less on the musical style of the song and more on the theology of its lyrics.
- Do the same this week during your devotional time. Choose a song to listen to and make the lyrics your own prayer to God. Write out a prayer to God using the lyrics of the song to guide your prayer.

Questions for Pastor Todd Keller regarding your REMIX group?

- Email: [tkeller@collegechurch.com](mailto:tkeller@collegechurch.com)
- Phone: Todd: 309-826-9944

\*\*\*Remember to record the attendance for this week. Thank you.

## How can we pray for each other this week?

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