



July 31, 2022

MAIN SCRIPTURE: Colossians 3:12-15 (NLT)

Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. 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.

WARM-UP

- What was the last thing you tried on in a dressing room?
- What thoughts, ideas, concepts, questions, or other inspiration stood out to you from the 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 – Receiving a gift from God

Verses: Colossians 3:12

- What would your response be if someone generously handed you the keys to a new car? Is there any part of you that would turn down this gift because you didn't want to give up your old car?
- Jesus chooses us. He invites each of us to walk away from sin – to turn in the "keys" for a new life with new characteristics. What keeps us from receiving this gift

without looking back at what we are giving up?

Thought #2 – Taking off the old life

Verses: Colossians 3:12-15

- What is God calling us to get rid of or take off in order to be who He has created us to be? What does our "old shirt" look like or represent?
- Describe the life that is stuck between taking off the old shirt and putting on the new shirt. What advice would you give to someone who has never moved beyond the "in-between"?
- What would it look like for us to focus less on what we are walking away from and more on what we are stepping into? What would it look like for us to make life less about who we were and more about who we are becoming?

Thought #3 – Putting on the new life

Verses: Colossians 3:12-15

- Paul is very clear in this passage about what we are to put on, but we often make ourselves responsible for the transformation. We decide to try harder, do better, and work more. But God is calling us to trust Him to produce these characteristics in us. Why is it our nature to try to change for God rather than allowing Him to do a work in us?
- What does it look like when I completely trust God to produce something I can't produce on my own? What are some examples?

Thought #4 – Just you and God in the "dressing room"

Verses: Colossians 3:12-15

This morning we were invited into an intimate moment with God — a moment when we could ask Him to clothe us in His righteousness. Tell your story. What did God do for you today as you prayed for the following qualities:

- Tenderhearted mercy: a compassion that is deeper than pity, calling us into action

