



*Scriptures for further study*

II Peter 1:5-8 | I Peter 3:8-11

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In Ephesians 4:22-24, Paul shows us that there is a process God uses to get us past our past and move us on to a new life and a new future. Moving on means pursuing what can be in Christ by choosing to put off the old self (v. 22), which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires. What is the “old self”? What does Colossians 3:7-9a say about the old self? Describe and discuss the old self in the context of attitudes, emotions and practices?
2. Regarding the new self as seen in Colossians 3:12-14, Paul provides a list of characteristics that we are to put on. What is the “new self?” Peruse Paul’s list in verses 12-14. What does kindness look like? How can you learn to practice patience? What does Paul mean when he says, “above all, put on love?” Describe and discuss the new person in the context of attitudes, emotions and practices?
3. How can attitudes, emotions and actions be changed so that they are consistently in line with God’s? When Paul says “be renewed in the spirit of your minds,” he is giving us the key to pursuing the future God has and gives. How does this renewal work to help us take off the old and put on the new?
4. According to verse 24, we are to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in righteousness and holiness that is driven by truth. God makes it happen by renewing our minds or making our thinking, our thought patterns—new! In 2 Corinthians 4:16–18, Paul gives us a glimpse of what His transforming truth looks like in real life. How does our thinking ultimately drive our feelings and our actions — our living?
5. In Colossians 3:2–4, how do we set our minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth? How do we let His Spirit do the Word-work that transforms our minds and thinking, our attitudes and feelings and actions, so that we will put on the new self, created by Him in the image of Christ Jesus Himself?
6. As the result of this study on “Getting Passed the Past,” has your perspective on life changed? In what way? Has your perspective on life with your Life Group changed? In what way?