

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

COLOSSIANS 3:12-17

INTRODUCTION:

The main goal of discussion this week is to identify virtues & lifestyle patterns that will encourage & facilitate our ability to experience the GREATER life in Christ.

Last week was all about putting off the old. This week is about putting on the "new." Walking in obedience to what Paul lays out in Colossians 3:12-17 paves the way for experiencing the GREATER life in your family, at your workplace and every other relationship.

You can't grow into who God wants you to become unless you're connected relationally. This passage gives practical instruction on how to flourish in all of your relationships but especially those relationships within the church.

ICEBREAKER QUESTIONS: (OPTIONAL)

How have your "church relationships" impacted your life?

PLAY WEEK ONE VIDEO (10 MINUTES)

Remember: you don't have to watch the entire video all at once. Neither must you ask every question. You may want to create your own or only ask one or two. You decide!

DISCUSS:

1. Paul mentions three different “status changes” in 3:12. Why does he do that and why is it important?
2. Look at the virtues listed in Colossians 3:12-14.
 - a. Which one stands out most to you? Why?
 - b. Which one do you struggle with most? Why?
 - c. Which one comes most naturally? Why?
3. Colossians 3:16 encourages longsuffering & forgiveness.
 - a. Why does reflecting on the forgiveness we *receive* in Christ help us *give* forgiveness to others?
 - b. Share a time when you forgave someone without feeling very forgiving. What was that like? Why was it important for you to do?
 - c. God’s forgiveness is *undeserved* & *inexhaustible*. Which one is hardest for you when you forgive?
4. Love is the most-important & all-sustaining virtue of the GREATER life. Discuss the difference between culture’s definition of love and a biblical definition (1 Cor 13:4-8a.)
5. Discuss life rhythms or disciplines that best position you to let the “peace of Christ rule” and/or the “Word of Christ dwell” in your heart. (ones you’ve already done successfully or ones you plan to do eventually)
6. The rest of the GREATER campaign will look at four key relationships: husband & wife, parent & child, employees & supervisors, believers & unbelievers. Discuss how the teaching thus far speaks to all four. (week 1 then week 2)