

One Another: “We are FA-MI-LY!”

Growth Group Discussion

Colossians 3:12-14

Opening Questions (get everyone involved in discussion):

- How do you feel about shopping for your own clothes? Do you have to be the one to pick out what you wear, or are you content to let someone else do it for you?
 - Transition: in today’s study, we see what God says about our decision to put on a new spiritual wardrobe.
- Begin with prayer. Take at least 30 seconds to be silent, clearing your minds of distractions and preparing to hear from God’s word.

1. Read Col. 3:1-4, then discuss the following.

- Paul talks in these verses about the objective change that Jesus has made in us, who believe in him. Why is it necessary to reflect on this objective change before considering our call to action?
- In your own words, how would you describe the change that Paul references here as “raised with Christ,” and “hidden with Christ in God?” What difference does that change make to your everyday life?
- Once we grasp this objective change, Paul’s first instruction has to do with where we “set [our]minds.” Why do you think that a change in our minds has to precede our outward characteristics?
- How hard or easy is it for you to “set your mind on things above?”

2. Read Col. 3:12-14, then discuss the following.

- In the original language, the one true imperative (command) is “clothe yourselves.” Why do you think that Paul chooses a clothing metaphor to describe how we are to develop new characteristics?
 - How far do you think we should take the implications of this clothing metaphor?
- Pastor Josh categorized these characteristics as those that build up relationships. Why do you think that instead of individual spiritual disciplines, Paul highlights relational attributes?
- To “clothe yourselves” is an intentional decision. What does it look like to be intentional about putting on these attributes? How have you gone about that?
- Of the five qualities listed—compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience—in which area do you think you still need the most development?
 - Is there anyone in your group who exemplifies one of these qualities really well? Ask them to share how they have cultivated it.
- Paul describes the way that God views us in v. 12: “God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved.” This statement is key to being able to put on a new “spiritual wardrobe.” Discuss as follows:
 - Which of these phrases is harder for you to accept, with respect to how God views you (i.e., chosen people, holy, or dearly loved)?

- Have you ever felt these truths at an emotional level? Discuss how that happened and what it was like.
 - Why/how does this reality enable us to carry out what Paul asks of us here?
3. **Because we have been chosen by the same generous Father, we are called into a spiritual family. The local church is an expression of that family.**
- How do you feel about the fact that we are called to live out our faith in the context of a local church family?
 - Paul gives us three particular actions that are required of us as part of this family. Discuss below.
 - ***Bear with one another.*** The implication is that you will have to tolerate people in the church family.
 - How do you feel about this idea? Have you experienced it? How do we do it well?
 - What is the potential benefit of doing this over the long-haul?
 - ***Forgive one another's grievances.***
 - How realistic is it that we can forgive one another when we aggrieve each other?
 - Where do we find the ability to do this?
 - ***Put on love (agape).***
 - In what way is love like an overcoat, that holds all these other relationships in place?
 - **Application:** Is there any particular way that our growth group can do these things more intentionally, or spur one another on in these things?

PRAYER:

- Take time to share about and pray for any other needs that exist in your group.
- Pray about the action steps that this study requires. If confession is merited, pray prayers of confession.