

Small Group Guide: "Am I Becoming Who I Am?"

Colossians 3:1-17 | The Supreme Life Series

Opening Prayer

Begin your time together by thanking God for the community you share and asking the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion and transformation.

Ice Breaker

Share a time when you felt truly known and accepted by a community. What made that experience meaningful?

Key Takeaways

1. **Our Identity is Settled in Christ** - When we are baptized, we die to our old self and are raised with Christ. Our life is now hidden in Christ.
2. **Identity Alignment, Not Behavior Management** - We're not just trying to act better; we're becoming who we already are in Christ.
3. **Christianity is Community** - We cannot become who we are in Christ by ourselves. Our new identity is both personal and communal.
4. **We Are Being Renewed** - Transformation is an ongoing process. We're not finished yet, and neither are our brothers and sisters.
5. **Isolation Leads to a Parched Land** - Rejecting community leads to spiritual withering. In a healthy church, we're only as alone as we choose to be.

Discussion Questions

Understanding the Text

1. Read Colossians 3:1-4 together. What does it mean that our "life is now hidden with Christ in God"? How does this shape your understanding of your identity?
2. Paul lists behaviors to "put to death" (vv. 5-9) and virtues to "put on" (vv. 12-14). Why is this about identity alignment rather than just behavior management?
3. In verse 11, Paul says there is "no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free." What barriers did Jesus knock down in the first century? What barriers does this address in our world today?

Personal Reflection

4. Mike asked, "Am I becoming who I am?" When you honestly evaluate your life, are you becoming more like Christ or drifting away? What evidence do you see?
5. Look at the list in verses 12-14: compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, forgiveness, and love. Which of these comes most naturally to you? Which is most challenging?
6. Mike shared his "stop sign" story where he failed to show patience and gentleness. Can you share a recent time when you didn't live up to who you are in Christ? What did you learn from it?

Community and Application

7. Every virtue Paul lists in verses 12-14 requires other people. Why do you think God designed our transformation to happen in community rather than in isolation?
8. Mike said, "In a healthy church, we are only as alone as we want to be." Do you agree or disagree? What opportunities for community exist that you might be overlooking?
9. What are some of the gravitational pulls away from community in your life right now? (Busyness, hurt, pride, convenience, etc.)
10. The sermon mentioned that people sometimes say "the church wasn't there for me" when they've isolated themselves from the church. How can we balance personal responsibility with genuine care for those who are disconnected?

Going Deeper

11. Read Psalm 68:6 - "God makes a home for the lonely." How does the church serve as a home for the lonely and isolated? How can our group better fulfill this calling?
12. Mike mentioned that the Holy Spirit changes us through His presence, through God's Word, and through other believers. Which of these three has been most impactful in your spiritual growth? Which needs more attention?

Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge

Choose one of the following to practice this week:

Option 1: Practice a Virtue

Pick one virtue from Colossians 3:12-14 that challenges you most. Each day this week, intentionally look for opportunities to practice it in your relationships.

Option 2: Deepen Community

If you've been isolated or disconnected, take one concrete step toward community this week:

- Attend a church event you normally skip
- Invite someone to coffee or a meal
- Join a serving team
- Reach out to someone you've had conflict with

Option 3: Identity Reminder

Each morning this week, read Colossians 3:1-4 and remind yourself: "Christ is my life. I am being renewed in His image." Journal about how this truth impacts your day.

Option 4: Extend Compassion

Identify someone (inside or outside the church) who is different from you—politically, culturally, generationally. Intentionally show them compassion and kindness this week, remembering that Christ knocked down all barriers.

Group Accountability

- Share which challenge you're choosing and why
- Exchange contact information to check in with at least one other person during the week
- Plan to share your experiences when you meet next time

Prayer Time

Pray for each other in these areas:

- That we would grow in understanding our identity in Christ
- For specific virtues each person is working to develop
- For those who are isolated or disconnected from community
- For our church to be a true home for the lonely
- For patience with ourselves and others as we're "being renewed"
- For courage to resist the cultural pull toward individualism

Before Next Week

- Follow through on your practical application commitment
- Memorize Colossians 3:12 or 3:14

Closing Thought

"We are being renewed each day to look more and more like Jesus, but we're not there yet. And it's a process that's going to go on and on and on until the day we die. It never stops. It's never finished."

Remember: You are not alone in this journey. We are becoming who we are—together.