

LIFE Community Sermon Notes



Colossians 3:1-17

Rules for Holy Living

1Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. 2Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. 3For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. 4When Christ, who is your^[a] life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

5Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. 6Because of these, the wrath of God is coming.^[b] 7You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. 8But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. 9Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices 10and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. 11Here there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.

12Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. 13Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. 14And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

15Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. 16Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. 17And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

LIFE Community Leader's Guide

Sunday, June 3

Big Idea: Desperate Households can deal with failure by taking three steps towards reconciliation.

Key Verse:

Col 3:12-14

12Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. 13Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. 14And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Opening Question: Describe the silliest argument you have ever had?

Questions in bold below are suggested focus questions. Sections in italics and parenthesis are for the leaders notes.

Observation Questions

Read Colossians 3:1-17

1. Who is Paul writing to?
2. What is the heading of this text?
3. **This text details some actions for the reader:**
 - A. **What is the believer asked to cloth themselves with?**
 - B. **What is the believer asked to do in the text, before he or she is to be “clothed”?**
 - C. **Why, according to the text, is the believer told to put to death certain things and be clothed with others? (see verse 3)**

Interpretation Questions

1. Why would this section be significant for the people Paul was writing to?
2. Why would Paul highlight those five suggestions in verse 12?
3. How would Jews and Gentiles “bear with each other” in Colosse?
4. **What would some of the “grievances” be that Paul might be thinking of? (*Different cultural and religious views in the city would have led to a wide range of conflicts and hurts. There is also a debate over whether the church at Colosse was dealing with a heresy, and this being most likely, it would have led to numerous conflicts and arguments*).**
5. **Bryan in his message highlighted that while this passage of Scripture is for the Church as a family, it is also applicable to natural families. How could this be true? (*It is interesting to note that in the book of Colossians, the very next section is on rules for Christian households). The beginning of this chapter clearly lays the groundwork for how Christians are to behave and live, and it is no different for Christian families*).**

Application Questions

Bryan focused on three passages from Scripture and related three steps to take:

1. **“Clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience” was a focus on creating a tidal wave of positive interaction**
 - A. **What is the positive/negative ratio in your family setting?**
 - B. **Which one of those five suggestions do you need to work on?**
 - C. **Bryan suggested we talk about them in our family. Have you? Will you?**
2. **“Bear with each other” was a focus on practicing love anyway. Sometimes we need to be gracious**

with each other and choose to love.

- A. How can you choose to love family members in spite of failures of theirs?
3. “Forgive one another as the Lord forgave you” was a focus on learning to extend and receive repair attempts.
 - A. What are the “repair attempts” in your family?
 - B. What do you need to ask others in your family to forgive you for?
 - C. How can you offer forgiveness to those in your family?

As you spend time praying together at the end of your study take the time to mention each family member by name and pray for them together as a group. Finally pray for each other and the commitments you have each made during this study to live as one who is hidden in Christ.

Leader’s Notes

1. *Bryan listed a quick process for forgiveness in his message. It is helpful to remind ourselves what that process is for seeking forgiveness from people: name the sin, acknowledge the hurt it has caused, address the behavior and then let go of the debt and pain—that is choose to stop punishing the person who has sinned against you.*
2. *The five terms listed in Colossians 3:12 are compassion (feeling another person’s pain); kindness (offering acts of mercy and love to others); humility (seeing others and their needs as more important than you and your own); gentleness (using your strength to nurture others); and patience (allowing time and the Spirit to set the timetable not our own). These graces, as some have called them, are all “other-focused”. This is the essence of the Christian life and the strength of the family. Reconciliation requires us to have the other person in mind.*

