



Grace
November 1, 2020
Colossians 3:12-16 (MSG)

Connect:

- Do you have a *style* when it comes to the clothes you wear? How would you describe your style?
- Name an article of clothing that you've held onto for a long time. Why have you held onto it?

Engage

- Read *Colossians 3:12-16 (MSG)*. If you drop back to the first verse of Chapter 3, you'll find Paul opening the chapter with a very direct word: "*So if you're serious about living this new resurrection life with Christ, act like it.*" How do we gauge our own "*seriousness*" about living the resurrection life?
- Paul's suggestion seems to be that if we say we're taking on this Christian life then we should dress for the part. This is metaphor of course and Paul names a list of things we should wear in the opening verses of today's passage: compassion, kindness, and so on. Do you ever think about "*wearing*" items from Paul's list? Pick one of the items from the list and share with the group what it would look like for you to "*put that on*" when you get up in the morning.
- Rev. Jason Veach notes: "*It may be possible for us to have the right theological answers but still get it terribly wrong: to have orthodoxy (right belief) without orthokardia (a right heart).*" It's one thing to say Christianity is primarily about love of God and neighbor and another deeper challenge to live it. Discuss this challenge, especially as it pertains to the division we experience in the country right now.
- Mark named *Fundamental Attribution Error* as one of our potential hang ups. FAE is a cognitive bias that causes us to attribute people's behavior to their character. Someone is late, we say they are lazy and irresponsible. We're late and we say, "*I was on an important phone call.*" For others its character. For us it is circumstance. When you think of those voting differently than you, do you see them as a whole person or as a one-issue-label? What does Paul ask us to see in others via this passage?
- The two candidates running for Governor in the state of Utah released a joint ad this past week. They shared how they want your vote but also want to say and show that they respect each other and wish to work together on things post-election for which they both hold passion. While simply calling for decency and respect for each other, the ad has gone viral because the world is not witnessing such collaboration these days. How can we, as people of faith, demonstrate collaboration in a time of such division?

Next Steps:

- The Harvard Business School, speaking of Fundamental Attribution Error, suggest the greatest way to neutralize our bias is to focus on gratitude. When you see someone this week and think of only that negative trait that gets under your skin, write down five things about that person you are grateful for. Maybe even text them a word of gratitude for some of those things. See how "*wearing grace*" may actually make your day better and that of others as well.

Pray:

- "*As we move from this sacred time, let us put on the armor of God: the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, the sandals that bring the gospel of peace, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, the sword of the spirit. Wearing the strength of God, we go in peace. Amen.*"