



Colossians 3:12-17

Opening Up

- What are you thankful for this week?
- What is a challenge you're facing? Is there some way our group can help?

Gospel Reverberation

- With whom did you share what you learned from the sermon or Small Group last week?

Introduction

As the apostle Paul continues to teach the Colossians about what it means to become a mature follower of Jesus Christ, he reminds them that the way they live matters to God. God's grace toward us through Jesus Christ should change us.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer explained in his book *The Cost of Discipleship*:

"**cheap grace** is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline. Communion without confession. Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ."

Whereas,

"**costly grace** confronts us as a gracious call to follow Jesus, it comes as a word of forgiveness to the broken spirit and the contrite heart. It is costly because it compels a man to submit to the yoke of Christ and follow him; it is grace because Jesus says: 'My yoke is easy and my burden is light.'"

As Christ-followers, we must recognize that we are not compelled to live differently in order to earn God's affections, but rather God has already shown us His love and faithfulness to us in Jesus Christ, which should give us a new desire to live for Him.

Pause and pray. Father, As we learn to follow you, give us new desires so that we can live in a way that brings glory and honor and praise to you. Amen.



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Bible Discovery

Read this week's passage out loud and discuss what the Bible says, what it means, and what it means for you and your group.

1. What is one thing you learned or took away from the sermon this week?
2. In these verses Paul begins reminding the church of who they are in Christ ("God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved,") before he explains what they are to do. Why is it important that understanding our identity precedes our actions?
3. Go through each of the points from the sermon and discuss what each point means and how it applies to the Christian life.
 - Clothe Yourself with righteousness (12-14)

What does it mean to clothe yourself with righteousness? What types of things does Paul include in his description in verses 12-14?

What do you think is significant about Paul illustrating his point about how we should conduct our lives as Christians by comparing it to putting on clothes?

What does it mean that love binds all these other virtues together?

- Be ruled by peace (15)

We often think of peace as the absence of conflict. But biblical peace actually means bringing flourishing to people and the community.

How do you typically respond to conflict?



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In what dimensions of your day-to-day life do you need to be a bringer of peace? How can you do that?

- Dwell in the Word (16)

The word *dwell* doesn't just mean "to live in", but rather to "feel at home in". What does it mean for you to dwell in the Word of God?

What does it mean for the Word of God to dwell in you? How does that happen?

How is it possible for the Bible to change our lives?

Has anyone taught you how to read the Bible and understand it? If so, what were you taught? If not, would you like to learn how to read the Bible with confidence?

- Live all in (17)

The mission of Pathway Church is "to be and make disciples of Jesus Christ." We never graduate from being disciples, but we can always be growing as disciples. Write down 1-2 ways you'd like to grow as a follower of Jesus in the next year. Also write down the name of someone you can share your goal with, whom you think may help your spiritual growth.

Putting It All Together

Growing a deeper understanding of God's love in Jesus Christ, and our identity which was won by the cross and resurrection will compel us to live differently, for the glory of God and the good of others.