

COLOSSIANS 3:12-17

THE CHASE: OUR DESIRE FOR ENOUGH & JESUS' PURSUIT OF US

SCRIPTURE & SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE — MAY 17

OPEN

In the Colossian hymn (1:15-20), Paul tells us that Jesus is Lord over creation and the new creation, the church. Throughout chapter 3, Paul describes with more detail what it means for us to be a new creation in Christ personally, but especially corporately. READ COLOSSIANS 3:1-17.

DISCUSS

1. Previously, we looked at verse 10, which says that the new self “is being renewed in *knowledge* after the image of its creator.” What “knowledge” does Paul emphasize in verses 12-17 as important for our spiritual growth? What does Paul want us to know about our identity in Christ?
2. Paul lists several virtues or character traits that we are to “put on”: compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.
 - a. How can you tell if you are actually cultivating this kind of character in your life or just exhibiting it because of your personality or circumstances?
 - b. What does it look like to develop these virtues in the context of a diverse church where “there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all. (Col. 3:11)?
3. In verses 13 & 14, Paul emphasizes forbearance and forgiveness as key indicators of our spiritual growth.
 - a. When do you find it difficult to bear with others in the body of Christ?
 - b. When’s the last time a relationship either ended or faded away due a lack of forgiveness?
 - c. When have you seen forbearance and forgiveness demonstrated well in the church?
4. In Colossians 1:28, Paul described his gospel ministry as proclaiming Christ, “warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ.” In Colossians 3:16, we learn that every believer has a gospel ministry: “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom.”
 - a. How are you growing in your grasp of the gospel (cf. Col. 1:1:5, “the word of truth”)?
 - b. What opportunities do you have to “teach” and “admonish” others?

PRAY

This past weekend, we took time in our service to specifically pray for those who are grieving, which includes all of us in some respect. Acknowledge your grief to the Lord and ask for “the peace of Christ to rule in your hearts.” Where you are experiencing comfort and joy, give thanks.