

RELEARNING RELATIONSHIPS

COLOSSIANS 3:12-17

CHURCH GROUP SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE – MARCH 16, 2025

SCRIPTURE READING

Colossians 3:12-17

12 Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, 13 bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. 14 And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. 15 And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. 17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

ICE BREAKER QUESTION

What's one aspect of your family culture growing up (a tradition, saying, or habit) that has shaped who you are today?

SERMON RECAP

- Every family has a distinct culture, and God's family is no different. Learning to be part of God's family requires adopting new ways of relating to others.
- To be a healthy member in God's family, you need to embrace a new motivation (seeing yourself and others through the lens of God's grace), develop new habits (compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, patience, forgiveness), and establish new priorities (peace of Christ, word of Christ, name of Christ).
- True biblical peace isn't merely the absence of conflict or keeping silent to avoid tension but rather pursuing healthy harmony within the body of Christ, even when that requires addressing difficult issues.
- You cannot be spiritually mature and relationally immature; love is the true test of spiritual maturity.
- The church is not just a weekly event but a community where we're formed by kingdom values, helping each other become more like Jesus.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Observation: What does the passage say?

1. What are the specific virtues or characteristics that Paul instructs believers to "put on" in this passage? What might each look like in practice?
2. According to verses 15-17, what three Christ-centered priorities should govern our relationships with other believers? How does Paul describe each one?
3. What role does thankfulness play in this passage? How many times is gratitude mentioned, and in what contexts?

Interpretation: What does the passage mean?

1. Paul begins with "Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved . . ." How does our identity in Christ (as chosen, holy, and beloved) provide the foundation and motivation for the relational virtues Paul describes?
2. What does Paul mean when he says "let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts"? How is this different from simply avoiding conflict?
3. How does Paul's description of the body of Christ challenge the social and cultural divisions of his day (Greeks/Jews, slave/free, etc.)? What implications does this have for our church communities today?

Application: How can we apply this passage to our lives?

1. Which of the relational virtues mentioned in this passage (compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, patience, forgiveness, love) do you find most challenging to "put on" in your interactions with others? What specific steps could you take this week to grow in that area?
2. The sermon stated, "When you experience relational tension, what 'rules' in your heart?" Think about a current or recent relational conflict. What emotion or desire is controlling your response? How might letting "the peace of Christ rule"

change your approach?

3. The sermon closed with two questions: “What kind of person are you becoming lately?” and “Who are you helping become more like Jesus?” Take a moment to reflect on these questions. What would it look like for you to intentionally invest in helping someone else grow in Christlikeness this week?

LEADER NOTES

SECRET CHURCH 25 | Gather your Church Group and join us at MBC Tysons on April 11 for Secret Church 25! Pastor David will lead us through the book of Matthew, we will learn about needs among the unreached, and we will pray together for the persecuted church around the world. Register at mcleanbible.org/events to receive the complimentary Guided Scripture Journal.