

Discovery Group - Colossians

(6) *Clothe Yourselfes With...*

Accountability

Share how your obedience commitment from last week went, and who you shared with.

Bible: Colossians 3:12-17

Read *passage* aloud & someone retell in their own words

- What do we learn from this passage about God?
- What do we learn from this passage about people?

Read the *article* on the next page.

- On what basis are you already chosen, holy, and loved? How does this fact lead to “putting on” godly character traits?
- Look at the list of qualities we are to put on. What is a challenge for you?
- How are we to practically help one another to grow in and walk in these qualities?

Commit

What is Jesus calling you to do in *obedience* this week?

Who can you *share* this with? Who can you reach out to in order to make disciples?

Abide: Read and meditate on the following passages this week:

- Spend time each morning meditating on 3:12-17. Ask the Lord what you need to put on in your life.
- Read 3:18 - 4:1 several times this week.

Clothe Yourself With...

In the previous section, we are given a list of things that must be “cut off,” or put to death. Things like sexual immorality, greed, anger, etc. Now, we turn to the types of things that are to characterize our new life. Here, Paul uses the metaphor of getting dressed. What kind of clothing do followers of Jesus wear?

But before investigating these qualities, let’s back up a step. Paul begins with a beautiful statement of who you are: “As God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved...” (3:12). You are chosen. You are holy. You are dearly loved. Wow. This is the foundation. This is the Good News! We always begin here. We cannot skip to the character qualities and behaviors. First, we receive all that Jesus has done. In Christ, actions follow faith. Behavior comes after belief. Inward transformation precedes outward change (Matt 23:26). It is because of what Jesus has done for you that you begin to change in noticeable ways.

You are chosen.

You are holy.

You are dearly loved.

Now, as such, this is how you live. There is a standard that chosen, holy, loved people live up to, and God does not leave us to our own resources to figure that out. He states it plainly. What kind of clothing do Jesus-followers wear?

Compassion and kindness	Humility	Gentleness
Patience	Forgiveness	Thankfulness

Note the emphasis that is put on forgiveness. Forgiveness is an essential and foundational trait of those who have been given new life. Why is that? Then, all of this is bound together with the greatest of all virtues: love. Chosen, holy, loved people love well and love extravagantly.

We are further exhorted to admonish and help one another to walk in this new life. We are not in this alone, and we need encouragement. Interestingly, this comes, at least partially, by teaching one another through offering praises to Jesus. Our gratitude and praise somehow sets an example and actually strengthens others in the development of essential Jesus-like qualities.

And finally - “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.” (3:17)