

Focusing on Jesus in a Blurry World:

Focusing on Right Relationships

Sermon #11, Colossians 3:12-14

Main Point: My relationship with Jesus transforms my relationships with others.

Getting to Know You

1. Are you the type of person who likes to hold on to the clothes you have, or one who likes to buy new clothes?

Getting into the Book:

Read Colossians 3:12-14

2. Why are we to “put on” these new Christ –like characteristics? (see also Colossians 1:22)
3. Why is the clothing imagery of “taking off” (Colossians 3:8, 9) and “putting on” (Colossians 3:10, 12) an effective one?
4. Go through the five “articles of clothing” mentioned in 3:12 and give synonyms and illustrations for each one.
5. In what situations do we sometimes just need to “bear with” or tolerate one another?
6. Discuss the following questions about forgiveness with the group:
 - a. Why are we to forgive others?
 - b. In what ways is Christ’s forgiveness described in Colossians 2:13-14; 3:13?
 - c. Is there anyone in your life who you need to forgive?
7. What is it about love that makes it “the perfect bond of unity”? What did Jesus say about love in John 13:34-35?

Getting Out There

8. How would you say our group is doing at living out these characteristics with one another?
9. Which of these “articles of clothing” is easiest for you to put on? Which one is hardest?
10. How can you make a more intentional effort to allow the Lord to make these characteristics true of you?

Prayer

Ask God to develop these characteristics more fully in your life, by the work of His Holy Spirit.

Bonus Exercise

Work on memorizing Colossians 3:1-4 together.

“Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. ³ For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.”