

Context

Colossians gives us a concise, but comprehensive view of who Jesus is. And with this, an understanding of how the truth of who He is can profoundly impact our personal lives. This New Testament book shows us that he's the supreme factor in every equation of life.

It's always helpful to read an entire book of scripture before digging into each chapter and verse. If you haven't yet, it would be good to read all of Colossians before beginning this week's study. You will definitely want to read the first twenty-three verses of chapter one.

In this section Paul uses the imagery of clothing to unpack the idea of a changed life. He describes what it means to no longer live the old life, but the new life that's ours in Christ. This is a challenge! If we're going to proclaim a message of life transformation, then we need to live a life that reflects that transformation.

Reread Colossians 3:1-17

1. Why is it so important to understand verses 1-4 as a foundation for applying verses 5-17? What are the "ditches" a person could fall into if they don't have this foundation?
2. What are the things that Paul says to "put to death"?
3. Reread verses 9-13. Why does Paul emphasize the difference between the old self and the new self? How would you describe this change in your own life?
4. Which distinctions does Paul break down in verse 11? (*Nationality; Ceremonial/Ritual; Cultured/Uncultured; Class*) Why do you think Paul is so thorough on this distinction?
5. Verse 12 starts with the word "Therefore". How would you summarize what Paul has said before this that he is intentionally tying to the rest of the passage?
6. List the actions that Christ followers are to demonstrate towards each other in verses 12-14. Which of these come more easily for you? Which are a struggle?
7. Why are these virtues and how they are lived out so important to Christ, the church, non-Christians, and our homes?
8. What do you make of letting the peace of God' be the decider (*literally 'umpire'*) of your heart'? How could you let this happen more?
9. What challenge do you find in vs.17? Are there things that you need to change in order to be able to do this?