

Colossians: Week Six

Have the group read **Colossians 3:12-17** prior to coming to small group. Ask them to take notes on what they see in this passage and to read it over and over again before coming. The goal of this week is to understand the type of life we should live amongst each other in light of our understanding of our position in Christ and his supremacy in our lives. It is Christ-like life!

Opening

Think of the followers of Christ who have had the biggest impact on your life. What are a few traits they have exhibited in their lives?

Discussion

Why should we exhibit the traits in v. 12 as followers of Christ?

Define each of these traits in a practical real life way: Compassion, Kindness, Humility, Gentleness, Patience. (Compare with Galatians 5:22-23).

What is most compelling about v. 13? What makes it difficult for us to forgive one another when we have been wronged?

Why do you think Paul says, "Beyond all these things" or "Over all these virtues" to put on love in v. 14? Why is love the most important virtue to display?

How can we allow the word of Christ to richly dwell within us? How will this help us to have the traits and virtues Paul exhorts us to exhibit?

Why is it important to teach and admonish one another? How can we practically do this?

What does it look like to do all things in name of Jesus?

Application

If we understand that we are supposed to exhibit these virtues as followers of Christ, how do we practically work on making them part of who we are?

How will these virtues and traits help us to forgive one another and to teach and admonish one another?

What specific trait or virtue do you need to focus in on in your life? What are you going to do to make this more of who you are?

Conclusion

What a great and exciting challenge we have from Paul. As followers of Christ there are certain virtues that should be evidenced in our lives. These virtues help to set us apart as true followers of Jesus and not just nominal Christians.

By the power of the Holy Spirit and allowing the words of Christ to richly dwell within us we can overcome the flesh and its desires and truly exhibit compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. By the power of the Holy Spirit and with the words of Christ we are able to forgive others as we are forgiven.

It is only through God's continuing work in our lives that we can truly exhibit these fruits and do all things in the name of Jesus.

Interestingly, these virtues, the ability to forgive others, to love, and to teach and admonish one another are things that Jesus did. Really Paul is exhorting us to model our lives after Christ in every way.

Prayer

Pray that God would enable you to display these virtues and traits in your life. Pray that God would show you what areas you need to work on to be able to do all things in the name of Jesus and to do all things as Jesus did them. Ask God to fill you up with the Holy Spirit in order to be who he desires you to be.