

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, October 3, 2010

Passage: Colossians 3:5-11

Memory Passage: Col. 3:12-14 (v. 14 only if a shorter memory verse is needed)

TODAY: From your study this past week, what is one thing that impressed you that can be of help in your life?

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Rom. 13:11-14, Eph. 4:24 & Col. 3:12-14.** Last week we saw that Paul was using the imagery of changing soiled clothes as he told us to put off the old self because we have already put on the new self. What do you learn from these passages, all of which use this metaphor with regard to our behavior as believers?

(b) By now you are probably getting tired of me saying things like, “Paul is not asking us to live in a certain way in order to become Christ-like, he is asking us to live a certain way because we are already in Christ.” How would you explain this concept to a brand new believer? What would you say to them if they responded, “Why does this matter?”

(c) What is the “then” (“therefore”) in v. 12 there for? How do vs. 12ff connect with the past verses?

(d) Pray (I mean it, pray right now☺) that God will soften your heart this week to the study of His word, that He will allow you to see yourself as He sees you, that you will take encouragement as He sanctifies you during your study, and that God would be glorified in your life as you submit to His word.

(e) *Family:* Remind your family of last week’s lesson in which a dirty set of clothes were “put off” and a clean one was “put on” and the study of Zechariah 3:1-10. Lead in a discussion of what they remember, and re-teach the concept of believers living in a way that reflects their standing in Christ. Then ask, “Last week we learned about several sins we were to ‘put off,’ but what would our life be like if we did not ‘put on’ anything in their place?” Remind them that they can only ‘put on’ the character of Christ (which we will study this week) when they have ‘put off’ the sins by repenting of those sins and trusting in Christ as their Savior. Present the gospel to your family using the “putting off” & “putting on” metaphor.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Luke 9:35, 23:35, Rom. 8:33 & 1 Peter 2:4-9.** What do you learn about God’s elect from these verses?

(b) What is the relationship between Christ being God’s elect and believers being God’s elect? How does this relationship enable the promise found in Rom. 8:33?

(c) Why does Paul use the terms “holy & beloved” to describe God’s elect? On what basis can God’s elect people be holy? Why is this important to understanding the rest of Colossians?

(d) Ponder for a moment the fact that you, if you are a believer, are “God’s elect, holy and beloved.” What affect should this have on your life as you walk in Christ this week? How should it help you deal with sorrow? Defeat? Persecution? Depression? Loneliness? Anger? Temptation? Selfishness? Covetousness? Sat. play? ...

(e) *Family:* Spend some time coming up with 4-5 groups of choices you will ask your family to make. Find pictures of each item to display. These should be groups of 3 (possibly 2) items that include one item that is not desirable (i.e. a horse, a beautiful dog, and a very mangy cat; a fancy new car, a big new pick-up truck, and a wagon without wheels; a gallon of ice cream, a picnic spread, and a pile of rotten lettuce). Tell everyone they need to make a choice in each group of the item they would like most. When they finish, ask which ones they chose, and ask why no one chose the “yucky” items. Then Read Deut. 7:6-8 and Eph. 1:3-6 and teach your family about God’s calling of His people and that He called no one because of what they looked like, or because they were so good, but so that His calling would be to the praise of the glory of His grace.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Col. 3:12.** Write down the 5 virtues Paul asks believers to “put on,” and write a definition of each one.

(b) Think of examples from the Scriptures in which people demonstrate each of these virtues (i.e. the tax collector in Luke 18:13 shows a humility). Write down the reference and a word or two to remind you of the act so you can participate well in the discussion on Sunday morning!

(c) With which of these virtues do you struggle most? What are the consequences in your family, your job, and your church if you fail to “put on” these virtues in light of who you are in Christ? Meditate on the passages of Scripture you wrote down in the last question that show biblical examples of people being obedient to these commands and ask God to strengthen your resolve to be obedient in these areas of your life through your meditation.

(d) *Family*: **Read Col. 3:12**. Have someone write on your white board the virtues mentioned in this verse, leaving room for a definition of each one. Discuss as a family what each of these virtues mean, and, using the list you made in your personal study from question (b) above, teach from the Scriptures what each one looks like. Then lead in a discussion of which ones each family member struggles with the most. Lead out in this by confessing your weakness first as a way to encourage others to be open and honest. Then, as you refer to the examples you just gave from Scripture, encourage your family to submit, through the power of the Holy Spirit, to these commands to better “put on” these virtues.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Col. 3:12-13**. What is the relationship between the virtues listed in v. 12 and the commands in v. 13?

(b) What does it mean to “bear with” another person? Do you do this often? If the answer is “no,” think about your relationship with others and see if there are ways that you are not “bearing with” others but, according to this passage, you should be. What will you do the next time you have the opportunity to “bear with” another person? What will look different compared to the times you don’t “bear with” them?

(c) Does “bearing with” another person mean that you never address issues of sin in their life? How can you be strong in helping others apply the gospel to their life (repenting of sin and trusting in Christ) while still “bearing with” them?

(d) *Family*: Think of 2-3 times during the last several days where members of your family were not very patient with each other. Be specific as you remind them of all the details that led up to the confrontation or loss of tempers. Then **Read Col. 3:13** and have your family re-envision each incident, discussing how things would have happened differently if these principles were guiding their interactions. Don’t forget to talk about future times where these principles will be needed!

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Col. 3:12-14**. Is it possible to bear with another person without forgiving them? Is it possible to forgive another person without bearing with them? Is there always a need to forgive someone if we have had to bear with them? So, to avoid only yes or no answers ☺, what is the connection between bearing with and forgiving someone?

(b) **Read Matt. 6:9-15**. Both Jesus and Paul speak of the connection between forgiving others and our forgiveness by Christ. How are their teachings different? How are they related? What do these verses teach about the necessity of forgiveness? Do they give us an option to forgive? What will happen if we choose not to forgive others?

(c) Consider the relationships you have, especially those people with whom you should be close & intimate (your family and your church family). Are there people against whom you hold a grudge, who you have not forgiven? Don’t gloss over this exercise! Think of even the smallest action that you are holding against someone, even if you have not allowed it to sever your relationship; people who you think differently about because of a grudge you hold against them. Ask God right now to help you forgive them, and write down specific ways you will change your relationship with them based on this forgiveness.

(d) *Family*: Play a video of an orchestra in which you can see the conductor (here is a 5 minute, interesting YouTube link if you need a suggestion <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tqiro1kdRlw>). Have your family watch for the role of the conductor. Explain that because the musicians are being bound together by the conductor the orchestra functions as it is designed to function. If every musician played their part when they wanted, instead of together, there would be chaos (and there are many more ways to illustrate this but I don’t have room, so be creative!). Then **Read Col. 3:14** and explain that love is what binds all believers together in community, and that if we function with love as our primary motive then the body (and families) will work together as they are supposed to. Explain how love enables all the virtues you studied this week.

DAY 6 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) Considering all you have learned this week, in what ways do you think The Bible Church would be strengthened if we were to become more obedient to these commands? What about your own family? Your own walk with Christ?

DATE: October 3, 2010

PASSAGE: Col. 3:12-14

Put on the New Self