



Life Group Discussion Guide
Heart Matters: Church
Colossians 3:12-17 (CSB)
March 22, 2020

Main Thought: ***The heart of the church matters.***

Sunday Outline:

- We are loved.
- We have new attire.
- We are thankful for one another.
- We share a common mission.

Welcome & Fellowship Time (*Suggested Time 10 Minutes*)

Open in Prayer

Week in Review: (*Suggested Sharing Time 10 minutes*)

- What have been some ways during the last week you have been able to connect with your family? What are some of the stories you have been sharing with one another?

Discussion Starter: (*Suggested Time 5 minutes*)

- Talk about what the term church has meant to you during your life. Discuss how your perception of what the church is has changed over time?
- What do you most appreciate about the body, not the building, called the church?

Sermon Review: (*Suggested Time 10 minutes*)

- On Sunday, we discussed how we are God's beloved. We are his dearly loved children. How are we challenged to embrace this identity within the church? Have you consistently seen God as one who dearly loves you within the church?
- There are several items of clothing Paul instructs us to put on in Christ. These are attributes that do not often come easy for us. How are you as a group seeking to "put on" these attributes as members of the body of Christ?
- Given the current social climate we find ourselves living through, how can the church more fully embrace the mission God has given us as His ambassadors of love, grace, and forgiveness to the world? Are there opportunities your group can be doing to strengthen the bond of one another?



Digging Deeper: *(Suggested Time 25 minutes)*

As a group take a look at John 17:20-26. This is Jesus' prayer for us, the church gathered in 2020.

- As you look over this prayer from Jesus, what are some of the things unity is and is not? And what does Jesus say some of the evidences will be of the church united?
- Are there relationships in your life that would not exist apart from the Gospel which has brought you together in this wonderful collective of diversity? How has God united you with those people?
- How can unity with other Christ-followers affect the way you engage in the mission of the church?

Application: *(Suggested Time 10 minutes)*

- How might you pursue sacrificial love this week? What opportunities are present for you to step into someone's story?
- Be earnest in praying for the church during this season of uncertainty. Encourage those you know who are not able to get out, or who may be feeling a greater degree of isolation.
- The church is a powerful force ordained by God to bring the love of Christ (the Gospel) to the world. When the church is united the world takes notice. How will you this week stand as a person unifying the church rather than serving as a divider of the church?

Group Prayer Requests: *(Suggested Time 10 minutes)*

Spend time praying for each other & praying for application of the study in the lives of the group members. *(Suggested time 10 minutes)*