

Study Questions for July 17, 2016

Message:

He Gives Us A New Mindset

Colossians 3:1-11

ICE BREAKER

Discuss:

Have you ever played tug of war? Who won?

What "Tug of Wars" is our culture tugging on?

LESSON REVIEW

The beginning of Chapter 3 is a turning point in the book. The first two chapters deal with theology and theory. The last two chapters deal with practical matters. Chapter 3 begins with the phrase, "Since, then, you have been raised with Christ" as if Paul is saying, "Because all that stuff in Chapters 1 and 2 is true, here's how we should live..."

It can be argued that this section is the heart of the letter because the purpose of all the theological argument that precedes it is to provide an effective arsenal for the ethical life. Without the actuality of the new life, proper or improper understanding is irrelevant. In our effort to assert the doctrine of salvation by faith alone, we sometimes forget that even Paul connected the indicative of the gospel with an imperative for a new life. We should recall that Colossians began in 1:4-6 by asserting this connection: Faith and love are two sides of the same coin; the gospel, if it is truly the gospel, bears the fruit of good works. Thus, having laid out the theology and given warning of heresy, it is essential to exhort the ethical life.

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Read Colossians 3:1-11.

Discuss:

Why do you think Paul uses the metaphor of clothing in this passage?

Make a list of things Paul says we should "take off" in this passage. Then make a list of things we should "put on." What observations can you make about your two lists?

Remember the video of Moses's testimony. Moses talked about "putting off" his old way of getting through life by using others and "putting on" a new way of humility.

Discuss:

What has Jesus helped you "take off" and "put on"?

How is setting your mind and heart on Christ related to what he has already done for us? (v 1)

In what sense are we raised with Christ? (v 1)

How can we not think about earthly things? (v 2)

How do we kill the earthly nature? (v 5)

How can we gain victory over secret sins? (v 8-9)

Can you help us understand Andy's analogy between twinkie and trophy?

WRAP UP

Andy talked about a lot of sculptures. What is your experience with that form of art?

Where are you in God's turning you into a great piece of art?

How can we pray for each other?