

amongst the body of believers. What changes do we need to make in our own lives to promote the harmony described in Colossians 3:14?

3. How Do I Look?

Colossians 3:16-17 NLT - 16 Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives. Teach and counsel each other with all the wisdom he gives. Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with thankful hearts. 17 And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father.

When we are filled with the message of Christ all those things we were told to put on in verses 12- 14 will now fit us. This is what we look like as representatives of Jesus.

A natural outpouring of the character of Christ is to give thanks to God. Spend some time right now praying or singing your thanks and praise to God. (not sure what to sing, maybe the doxology?)

WRAP-UP

Each day we choose what we clothe ourselves with. We can put on the same old clothes we used to wear, or we can shed those and put on the character of Jesus. But before you do, spend some time in His presence being transformed into His likeness so those new clothes fit.

MEMORY VERSE

Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony.
- Colossians 3:14 NLT

PRAYER (20 MIN)

Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life.

Challenge- Take time this week getting into shape for your new wardrobe- and that means spending time with Jesus.

“What’s Your Wardrobe” Made For More #4

INTRODUCTION

At New Life you will hear us say that we are loved by Jesus, shaped by Jesus and enabled to do what Jesus did. What does it mean to be shaped by Jesus? When you are shaped by Jesus, His character is reflected in you. And what characteristics do we look for in ourselves that reveal Jesus? Our key passage in Colossians 3 gives us a pretty good idea. It tells us what we should be “clothed in” to reflect Jesus’ character. Let’s see if our wardrobe is in Jesus’ style.

Ice Breaker

Did you ever play dress up in your parent’s clothes as a child? Describe how you handled wearing clothes that were much larger than you were.

Key Passage

Colossians 3:12-15 NLT - 12 Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. 13 Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. 14 Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony. 15 And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful.

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Get Ready for a Change of Outfit

Colossians 3:4-5 NLT - 4 And when Christ, who is your life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory. 5 So put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you. Have nothing to do with sexual immorality, impurity, lust, and evil desires. Don't be greedy, for a greedy person is an idolater, worshiping the things of this world.

If you are looking for an inspiring goal in life, look no further than Colossians 3:4. Christ can be revealed in your life, and you will share in His glory! But first you need to make space for Christ and His character in life. That begins by getting rid of ungodly things. Time for some Spring cleaning in our closets.

Colossians 3:7-10 NLT - 7 You used to do these things when your life was still part of this world. 8 But now is the time to get rid of anger, rage, malicious behavior, slander, and dirty language. 9 Don't lie to each other, for you have stripped off your old sinful nature and all its wicked deeds. 10 Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him.

*Paul tells the Colossians to get rid of the old things, and he uses the term *apekdyomai* which means to strip off and separate yourself from something that was on you. You can't put on new clothes while you are still wearing the old clothes. What are some of the "old clothes" that you want to separate yourself from? At the heart of this transformation into Christ likeness is "learning to know your Creator". What do you think helps you get to know your Creator better?*

2. Fit for New Clothes

Jesus wants to pick out a new outfit for you. One that is fitted to His shape. It won't look like what everyone else is wearing, so be prepared to stand out in the crowd, because you are a holy people, and that means you are "set apart".

Colossians 3:12 NLT - 12 Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.

We have a long list of clothes to put on now that we have taken off the old clothes. Notice in verse 12 that you are the one who puts on these clothes, it is by your choice and your action. Nobody forces you into them. Which of these are easiest for you to "put on" and which do you tend to forget most often?

Putting on Jesus's character is a bit like pulling on the team jersey. When people see you wearing this, they know whose team you are on.

Who would you say you recognize on Team Jesus by their tender heart, mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness or patience?

Colossians 3:13 NLT -13 Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.

Paul continues by saying we must make allowance for each other's faults, or more literally, we bear with, or enure them. We do this for them, not because it is earned, but as a free gift, no strings attached. This is a picture of grace. Paired with grace is forgiveness. We are to forgive anyone who offends us. *(If we haven't spent time getting to know our Creator and be filled with His love for us this will never happen)*

How does the latter half of this verse put our forgiveness in perspective? What is required for you to overcome the natural response of being offended, and instead forgive? How does offering grace and forgiveness to others display Jesus' character in us?

This will not happen overnight. To acquire Christ's character, we must spend serious time in His presence, and in prayer.

Colossians 3:14-15 NLT -14 Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony. 15 And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful.

Of all the articles we are to clothe ourselves with, the one which ties them all together is simply love. Knowing we are loved by Jesus, spending time receiving and being filled with the love of Jesus shapes us so that we can "wear" the love of Jesus.

What does being clothed in love produce according to verse 14? Imagine that all of us who belong to the body of Christ are wrapped in love. If we are wearing the jersey of Jesus, its logo is love. Unfortunately, all too often we don't see peace and harmony