

3:5-17 (Part 2) Discussion Questions

Discussion Questions

Read 3:5-17

1. Last week we looked at the portion of this passage that talks about putting to death or putting off the old man. Now we are looking on the section where Paul explains what it looks like to put on the new man.

a. Look at v. 12. Paul says we are "God's chosen ones, holy and beloved." In the Greek the two phrases are linked, meaning they should be read as connected together referring to one idea. What does each of these phrases mean? What do they teach us about how God views His people?

b. How does it affect you that if you are Christians, God has chosen you, set you apart, and calls you His beloved?

c. Do you have an easy or difficult time accepting that God sees you this way?

d. What does this reveal about your view of yourself?

e. What does this reveal about your view of God?

2. Take a look at the virtues in v. 12. In what area do you feel like the Lord has gifted or grown you most? Where are the most challenged to grow?

3. Notice that in v. 13 as Paul gives us some more examples of what it means to put on the new man in Christ, Paul keeps using the word "one another" or "another."

a. With that in mind, what is the relationship between the exhortations in v. 13 and the virtues of v. 12? How do they connect to one another?

b. What does this verse teach us about community?

c. Why does Paul bring up Jesus' example at the end of this verse? Why does the fact that Jesus forgave mean that we "must forgive" as well?

4. Paul then says that love “binds everything [in this case, everyone] together in perfect harmony.” It’s clear from this passage and others that love is central to the Christian life.

a. Where in your life have you seen God develop a love for others? How did it happen?

b. Who are you currently struggling to love? Why?

5. Next, Paul admonishes them to “let the peace of Christ rule” in their lives. The Romans had achieved a political peace through military conquest and pacification. In 1:20 Paul had already explained that Jesus achieved peace through his death, where he reconciled us to God and disarmed his enemies.

a. The word for “rule” is related to the word for “judge” in 2:18 where Paul tells the Colossians not to allow the legalism others to judge them. How does this help us to understand what Paul means when he says to “let the Peace of Christ rule”?

b. Notice how Paul follows up this command with a call to manifest the rule of the peace that Jesus provided in the church, as “one body.” How can we as a church live out the peace of Christ? What is your role in this?

c. What things, besides Christ, are you tempted to use or are willing to submit to in order to achieve peace?

6. Paul moves onto “let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.” The “word of Christ” is most likely a reference to the all that was revealed in the life and teaching of Jesus, i.e., the gospel.

a. How does Paul say we are to do that? (See. vv. 15-16)

b. How do we typically determine what is a good worship song? What are they supposed to do? Entertain? Engage us emotionally? Instruct us? All or some combination?

c. What does the fact that “psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs” play an important role in the Word of Christ dwelling within us teach us about what makes a good worship song?

d. What makes a “bad” worship song?

e. Does it really matter?

f. What role has worship played in your spiritual growth and theological education?