

Colossians 3:12-17

Questions

1. When you were a child, what was one behavior your parents insisted on just because you were a member of their family?
2. Read Colossians 3:12-17. Why does Paul begin by reminding us that we are Holy in God's sight (v. 12)?
3. Why is the description "God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved" (3:12) not dependent on our feelings or efforts (1:12-14; 2:9-10)?
4. How would putting on the "new clothes" described in verse 12 make your church distinct from your culture?
5. Paul recognizes that grievances occur even in the church. How are his instructions for handling grievances different from the way our culture handles them (vv. 13-14)?
6. Paul also recognizes that Christians conflict with each other. How could conflicts be better managed with peace ruling (lit., "functioning like an umpire") in our hearts (v. 15)?
7. What does it mean to let the word of Christ *dwell* in us richly (v. 16; see also Eph 5:18-20)?
8. What opportunities exist in your church to teach, admonish and sing as described in verse 16?
What opportunities would you like to create?
9. What is there about thankfulness that causes Paul to command it three different ways (vv. 15, 16 and 17)?
10. How would doing everything "in the name of the Lord Jesus" transform what you have to say and do today (v. 17)?
11. In contrast to the rules mentioned in 2:16-23, how are these "new clothes" we are to wear appropriate expressions of the fullness we have in Christ?