



COLOSSIANS: Week 4

COLOSSIANS – The Kingdom Life

WEEK 4: Community

Bible: Colossians 3:1-17; 4:5-6

Bottom Line: There is so much challenging, practical content in these passages that we will spend two weeks on it. Paul uses the metaphor of a wardrobe to describe this change from garbage to garments, from the old life to the new.

TEACH

From ugly Christmas sweaters to fun superhero shirts, there's something we enjoy about clothes.

We may not rave over socks and underwear at Christmas, but getting to trade out old clothes for new ones can be fun.

As we dig into the book of Colossians, we are going to spend this week and next week looking at an identity makeover that Paul describes in this letter.

Let's look at cleaning out the closet or deleting the old you.

Then, next week, we'll look at getting new clothes or becoming a new person.

Read Colossians 3:2-4,12,14,17.

Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth. For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God. And when Christ, who is your life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all His glory. Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like Him. Since God chose you to be the holy people He loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony. 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. 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.

Read Colossians 4:5-6.

Live wisely among those who are not believers, and make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be gracious and attractive^a so that you will have the right response for everyone.

1. Time for a new identity! (Colossians 3:1-2)

This is the kind of life you will be expected to live if you do follow Jesus.

He's reminding us that there is a past or old identity and a new current-and-future identity. He frees you from sins because He was crucified, died, buried and raised from the dead!

It's about what He did, not you. In response to what He did, you should have a different identity than you did before accepting this amazing gift of grace.

Paul is challenging you to focus and think about the things of Jesus, things that matter, rather than just the temporary stuff around us.

The Message Bible translates these two verses very well:

So if you're serious about living this new resurrection life with Christ, act like it. Pursue the things over which Christ presides. Don't shuffle along, eyes to the ground, absorbed with the things right in front of you. Look up, and be alert to what is going on around Christ—that's where the action is. See things from His perspective.

Paul is saying to stop being someone who is so focused on the images and words on your You Tube or what your friends think at school that you miss the people and images in the real world all around you!

Even the best Fortnite image or NETFLIX movie can't compete with seeing a sight like Newport Beach or Grand Canyon or Yosemite in person.

Living a life focused just on what matters in this world is just as limiting. We need to pay attention to what matters to Jesus.

2. Delete (and quit posting) sin! (Colossians 3:5-9)

Paul says to "put to death" or kill the sin in our lives. Like disobeying mom and dad. Or fighting with your brother and sister. Or always wanting the best for you and not others.

And just because we follow Jesus doesn't mean we stop wanting to sin. Our sins are forgiven, but we still do things God doesn't want us to do and don't do things He does want us to do. (Talk about those things as a family).

3. Develop a new Jesus-identity! (Colossians 3:10-11)

Paul finishes this section by talking about putting on new clothes or developing a new identity.

Paul says we should "learn to know your Creator and become like Him."

Read the Bible and do what it says. Paul says here to get to know God better so you can live the kind of life He wants you to live.

FAMILY DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Have you ever bumped into someone or something because you were looking at something else and not paying attention to where you were going?

Share that story.

2. Have you ever been riding in the car with your family and suddenly looked up to be surprised by the view around you? (beautiful road trip, sunset, the beach etc.)
3. If we're focused on what is most important to people who don't follow Jesus, what might we miss? Have you ever had a favorite toy or clothing that you had to get rid of but had a hard time doing it? Explain. (Explain to your kids that this is kind of like sin in our lives.)