



COLOSSIANS: Week 5 - The Kingdom Life in Quarantine

Read **Colossians 3:1-17**; Read **Colossians 4:5-6**.

1. New clothes. (**Colossians 3:12**)

Paul uses the metaphor of clothes to describe some of the characteristics we need to have in our lives as we follow Jesus.

He gives us a list of five here: **Tender-hearted mercy; Kindness; Humility; Gentleness; Patience**

Tender-hearted mercy

This means we are moved at the deepest level to help others, especially those who are suffering. Some translations also use the word "compassion." How can we do this as a family (what does it look like) during Quarantine (Parents this could be an awesome discussion!).

Kindness

This the kind of caring God gives us, we who are undeserving because of our sin. We need to care for others, especially those who are seen as undeserving.

Humility

Humility is not pretending to be less than you are or letting people mistreat you.

Humility is following Christ's example to put others' needs in front of our own, as Paul has so powerfully described in Philippians 2:1-11.

Gentleness

This is not weakness as some think of it. This is thinking of others and caring for them in a way that displays power under control.

It is doing what you should do, considering the needs and thoughts of others instead of just doing what you can and want to do.

Patience

This is more than just being able to wait for someone or something. It's not just waiting around during Quarantine 😊

Paul uses this word to mean dealing with the insults and wrong things other people do in the right way, trusting God enough so that you do not resort to flying into a rage or seeing revenge.

2. Forgive others. (**Colossians 3:13**)

It's easy to feel good about how well we do at following Jesus when we compare ourselves to others.

When we compare ourselves to Jesus and how well He obeyed God and followed God's instructions, we are humbled and see how much we have to work on.

Paul brings this up specifically with forgiveness. We are to have the same kind of forgiveness towards other people that Jesus did and does with us.

That doesn't require them to say they are sorry or never to do what they did again.

It simply means we let go of the hurt from their sin and don't allow that to damage the relationship we have with that person.

3. Love others. (Colossians 3:14)

This is more than mushy-gushy stuff.

See 1 Corinthians 13:1-7 for Paul's detailed description of what love looks like.

Paul is describing love in the clothing metaphor like a belt that keeps everything together.

4. Fill your life with the Bible. (Colossians 3:16)

Paul's words in this verse sound much like a typical weekend for a church.

There should be teaching - which can come in different forms, mainly through Biblical preaching. It can also come from a small group study.

We need to help others and need others to help us make sure we're actually doing what we're reading about in the Bible. And then we are told to sing! Most of us enjoy some music.

Paul says that using music to celebrate and honor God is a core part of the life of someone following Jesus.

5. Change how you use "whatever." (Colossians 3:17)

Probably most of us have heard or said ourselves, "Whatever!" in a sarcastic, disrespectful response to someone.

In this verse, Paul says, "Whatever you do or say," make sure it represents Jesus well with a thankful heart.

The Message translates this as:

Let every detail in your lives—words, actions, whatever—be done in the name of the Master, Jesus, thanking God the Father every step of the way.

I want to challenge you with this verse. Whenever you hear someone say "Whatever" or think it or say it yourself, may it remind you and convict you that every detail of our lives is supposed to honor Jesus. If not, we need to make changes.

6. Bring out the best in others. (Colossians 4:6)

Paul's words challenge reminded us of Jesus' own words when He said:

Read Matthew 5:13-14 (The Message)

Let me tell you why you are here. You're here to be salt-seasoning that brings out the God-flavors of this earth. If you lose your saltiness, how will people taste godliness? You've lost your usefulness and will end up in the garbage. Here's another way to put it: You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. Our conversations with other people should not put them down but instead, build them up. We should recognize and point out characteristics of God that we see in people and the world around us. This will keep our identity connected with Jesus.

Guide a discussion with your kids with the following prompts:

1. How excited do you usually get when you get to pick out new clothes or shoes?
2. Look at the five words we are given in the challenge from verse 12.

Are any of those something that you need to work on this week? Explain.

3. Why is it hard to forgive others the way Christ has forgiven us?
4. How many of you have been somewhere messaging someone or playing a game when your battery died? How frustrating is that?
5. Paul's language in verse 16 is about being filled like a full battery charge on a device. We have to remember to plug our devices into a power source to refill or recharge the battery. In the same way, our connections to God through the Bible and the church community help fill us up with God.

With this in mind, how important should participation in a church be or reading God's word be?

Which one of the main points from the lesson do you need to work on understanding and obeying most this week? Explain.

Give one action step - something specific you will do in the next seven days - to help you understand and live out what that point is teaching.

Close in prayer.