

SUMMARY:

What appeals to you most about this vision of the renewed life?

What challenges you most about the new life?

What do you need to do this week to put this into practice?

Preparation for next study:

- Read 3:6-4:6 and then reread 3:17-4:6 twice
- What excites and upsets you in these verses?
- What principles do these instructions make practical?

COLOSSIANS FOUNDATIONS

STUDY 6: COLOSSIANS 3:5 – 3:17 GETTING CHANGED

Start by praying for your study

Feedback from Preparation:

How does the last study shape how we read this passage?

What's been your experience of community?

Read the following passage in the group:

Colossians 3:5 - 3:17 Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry).⁶ On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient.⁷ These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life.⁸ But now you must get rid of all such things: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth.⁹ Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices¹⁰ and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator.¹¹ In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all!¹² As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.¹³ Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive...

¹⁴ Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

What stands out to you from this passage?

TAKING OFF THE OLD LIFE 3:5-10

⁵ Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). ⁶ On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. ⁷ These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. ⁸ But now you must get rid of all such things: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. ⁹ Do not lie to one another seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices ¹⁰ and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator.

How do these verses flow out of 3:1-4? How is this different from 2:20-23?
What has happened and what needs to happen in these verses?
What specific things most challenge you?
How and to what end are we being renewed in verse 10
(see also 1:9-10 and 1:15)?

PUTTING ON THE NEW LIFE 3:11-14

¹¹ In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all! ¹² As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. ¹³ Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴ Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

What are the marks of the community of people who follow Jesus?
What specific things in this challenge you?
Is there anyone you need to forgive?

LETTING JESUS RULE 3:15-17

¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

In what three ways does Jesus shape our daily lives in these verses?
Why does Paul instruct us to be thankful in each of these verses?
How can you practice these three things and thankfulness this week?