

- ii. How are we instructed to pray? (Matt 6:9-13)
 - a) *Our Father.*
 - b) *Your Name be honored as Holy.*
 - c) *Your Kingdom come.*
 - d) *Your Will be done on earth as it is in heaven.*
 - e) *Give us today **our** daily bread.*
 - f) *And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.*
 - g) *And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.*

LIVE THE STORY

The Gospel is intended to be learned and lived in community. The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.

- What does Paul describe that should distinguish the church as a community from the broader community in which we live?
- What does it look like to be clothed in Christ? What is the clothing? Why is it important to be clothed in Christ before God and before others?
- Why will putting on the aspects of Christ's nature described in Colossians 3:12-15 reduce the frequency of moving from church to church in some? Why are these essential for true community?
- In Jesus God has acted toward us in His kindness, not according to our sins. Are you wearing kindness in your relationships to others? What might this look like in your life?
- Gentleness/meekness: What opportunities do you have to make room for the weak-nesses of others? How did and does Christ make room for your weaknesses?
- How might praying through the Lord's Prayer help us put on the clothing listed in Colossians 3:12-14?
- How does the cross, where Jesus forgave us, teach us how to forgive others? Why is forgiveness both necessary and hard?

The Cross as a Pattern for Community

Jerry Cisar — July 19, 2015

Text: Colossians 3:1-14

Introduction: *What makes us distinct as a community?*

A. Defining Community

- i. *A social group of any size whose members reside in a specific locality...*
- ii. *A group that is distinct in some respect from the larger society within which it exists.*
- iii. *A group leading a common life according to a rule.*

B. What is the rule of life or philosophy that ought to distinguish God's people from the world?

When we, the church, rid ourselves of the world's self-oriented values as a pattern for living and start embracing the Cross as a pattern for living, we will demonstrate the power of the message we proclaim...even in our weakness.

I. Stripping Off Your Old Way of Life (Colossians 3:1-11)

A. *Since, then, you have been raised with Christ...* (Col 3:1-4)

B. Language doesn't offer a more radical appeal. (5-9)

- i. The old clothing didn't hide us, it revealed who we were.
- ii. The new clothing we are to put on is Christ. (10-11)

C. Putting the old man to death and putting on the new man are both accomplished at the same place... the Cross.

II. Clothed In Christ Before God and Others (3:12-14)

A. Context: We were joined to Christ in his death through faith, buried and raised to new life in our baptism.

i. *“God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved...”*

a) Chosen (John 1:32-34)

b) Holy (John 1:27)

c) Beloved (Matthew 3:17)

ii. The Father sees you hidden in Christ.

a) 3:6 ...*the wrath of God is coming.*

b) Rev 6:16

B. I am to be hidden, clothed, before others in Jesus Christ.

i. *“Who wore these clothes first?” “Jesus Christ, in laying down His life for us.”*

ii. Compare Romans 13:12-14

b) Bonhoeffer speaks of the danger of confusing real brotherhood with *“some wishful idea of religious fellowship.”*

True community can only come when the cross drives our theology and shapes our community. True community can only exist in relationships in which we have to bear the offenses of others, not running, or heaping pain back onto the offenders. This is a cross-shaped community.

vi. Bearing with and Forgiving

a) How did the Lord forgive you?

b) How will we bear with and forgive others?

c) The cross is a pattern for forgiveness.

vii. *over all these virtues put on love*

III. Putting On a Cross-Way of Life. (3:12-14)

A. The only place to find these clothes is at the Cross.

i. Compassion

ii. Kindness

iii. Humility

iv. Gentleness

a) 1 Peter 3:7

b) 1 Thessalonians 5:14

v. Patience

a) Romans 3:25

IV. The Dressing Room

A. How do we put on Jesus Christ?

i. Sit at the foot of the Cross and consider what Christ has done for us!

ii. As the community (church), both corporately and individually pray the Lord's prayer.

B. Prayer, especially guided by the Lord's prayer, is vital for putting on this clothing and getting the right fit.

i. Where did Jesus go just prior to being arrested? (Matt. 26:41)