



DISCUSSION GUIDE

Colossians – Old You, Meet the New You

GETTING STARTED

Describe someone you know (even if that's you) that has "changed their life"? How did they change? What happened?

QUICK REACTIONS FROM THE MESSAGE

How would you summarize/paraphrase the message in your own words?
What point/idea resonated most with you? Why?

1. What does Paul mean when he says "put to death what is earthly in you?"
2. As you read through the list of things that must die in us...
 - a. what do they have in common?
 - b. is this an "exhaustive list" of things that we put to death, or are there other things?
 - c. How is putting to death these things not just a one-time event, but an ongoing process (see Phil. 3:12-14)
3. In what ways should our "fellowship" be a place we can help "put our old nature" to death?
4. As you look at the list of what Paul characterizes as putting on our new nature in Christ (vv. 10-17)
 - a. How is this list different from Paul's other list?
 - b. What do these things have in common?
 - c. How is this list in some ways much more difficult to "put on"?
 - d. How would your life and the life of the church look differently if we put these things on?
 - e. What would this communicate to the "world" around us?

EXPLORE THE PASSAGE [Colossians 3:5-17]

(Yes, these questions can seem silly, however, good discussion and interpretation of the Bible begins with having a proper understanding of the basic facts; who, what, when, and where in the text.) Work through this quickly, the answers are fairly obvious.

What must die? (3:5)

Why is God's wrath coming? (3:5-6) READ ROMANS 1:18-25 (This is only place in the NT that outlines what God's wrath/anger at sin is)...take note of the phrase "God abandoned or handed them over" What does this say or mean about God's wrath/anger?

What had the Colossians taken off? (3:7-9)

What had the Colossians put on? (3:10)

What distinctions are removed in Christ? (3:11)

What virtues does God seek to put in us? (3:12, 14)

How were the Colossian believers called to clothe themselves? (3:12-17)

Why did Paul call on the believers to be peaceful and thankful? (3:15-16)

What should we do? How? (3:17)

What is one principle that ought to guide everything we do? (3:17)

QUESTIONS THAT HELP US UNDERSTAND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TEXT

What spiritual process is involved in "putting off" and "putting on"?

What is involved in replacing old habits with new ones?

How should life in Christ affect the way you treat others?

How are all your relationships to be built around Christ?

Why do we need to be loving toward others?

Why is a thankful spirit an important part of holy living?

APPLY THE PASSAGE

What do we learn about God and about ourselves in this passage?

What do you need to stop, start or do differently as a result of reading this passage?

How can we pray for each other?