

RISEN IN ME: A NEW WAY TO BE HUMAN DEVOTION AND DISCUSSION GUIDE

Colossians 3:1-16 ESV

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. ³ For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

⁵ Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. ⁶ On account of these the wrath of God is coming. ⁷ In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. ⁸ But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. ⁹ Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices ¹⁰ and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. ¹¹ Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.

¹² Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, ¹³ bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴ And above all these put on 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 one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, s

Opening Discussion: Describe a time when you showed up somewhere—like an event, a trip, or a celebration—wearing the wrong clothing. How does it feel to be over or under dressed for something? What do your clothes potentially communicate about yourself to others?

- In chapter 3 Paul presents a new way to be human through a complete reordering of our lives—taking off the old self and putting on the new.
- What does it mean to take off the old self and put on the new self?

Key Thought: Do it all in Him and for Him!

- Living in two overlapping worlds (earthly and heavenly) through a new way to be human.
- You cannot be the same, think the same, and act the same if you hope to be successful in a world that does not remain the same. John Maxwell

1. Something to Take Off

How would you define non-essential? Can you think of some things that have been removed from your life recently that you now realize were non-essential? Are there some non-essential things you can think of that still need to be removed?

Take off the stained rags of sin—verse 5

- What does it mean to put sin to death? How does the Holy Spirit empower us to do that?
- Is there anything in verses 5-8 that you struggle with and need to put to death?

Take off the selfish mask of shame—verse 9

- Have you ever identified yourself by using the phrase, “I’m a sinner saved my grace?”
- Why is this not an accurate description of who you are in Christ?

Take off the splintered self-made sects—verse 11

- What self-made sects have tested you? What are culturally relevant words you would use in translating verse 11?
- How does the definition of quarantine help you understand times of testing?
Quarantine—a period of 40 days, time of detention or isolation imposed upon ships, persons, animals, or plants on arrival at a port or place, when suspected of carrying some infectious or contagious disease.

Application:

- Could it be that the Lord has allowed a quarantine to take off (delete) those things that are diseased, decaying, or dead?
- What does “return back to normal mean to you?” Consider your life before this pandemic—what are some things you considered “normal” that you now realize were not and should be removed from your life?

2. Something to Put On

How would you define essential? What kind of thoughts, actions, and motives would be considered essential for someone who is in Christ?

Put on Christ’s character—verse 12-13

- What essential character traits listed in verse 12 do you find challenging?

Put on Christ’s charity—verse 14-15

- How is love the tie that binds everything together in perfect harmony?

Put on Christ’s commands—verse 16

- Don’t just go through the Bible, let the Bible go through you.

Application:

- Consider your life before this pandemic—what are some things you now realize were missing that you need to put into (or back into) your life?

Key Thought: Do it all in and for Him—verse 17

- Remove the non-essential, add or keep the essential.

Big Question:

- What do I need to take off (delete) today?
- What do I need to put on (add) today?