



CITIZENS CHURCH

“Put On”

Sanctification

Week 2 | June 11th, 2023

Community Group Discussion Guide

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Parenting Class

Sunday, June 18 or July 9 | 11am-12:15pm

Becoming a parent is equal parts exciting, nerve-racking, and exhausting. Your schedule changes, your rhythms change, and sometimes even your friendships change. With many families in our church becoming first-time parents, we want to help equip new moms and dads to be the best parents they can be. We also want to provide help and encouragement for the moms and dads who feel as if they aren't up to the task.

We'll be hosting a Parenting Class on June 18th and July 9th (you only need to register for one of the times).

This class is required for everyone who wishes to participate in the Parent Commissioning at the Gathering on Sunday, August 20th.

Parents with children of any age are welcome to attend.

Childcare is provided for the class if needed.

[MORE INFO + REGISTRATION](#)

Formation Class: Singleness & Dating

Sundays - July 16+23, 11am-1:00pm

What does it mean to live a flourishing life as a single person? Why is dating in the modern world so confusing? How do I navigate through all of these questions, decisions, and frustrations?

On July 16 & 23, we'll offer a class on how to live and date well as a single follower of Jesus. If you are single, in the dating world, or have friends who are single or dating to whom you want to be helpful, this is the class for you.

This is a two-part class, taking place over two consecutive Sundays, from 11:00am-1:00pm.

[MORE INFO + REGISTRATION](#)

SERIES RECAP

We are spending two weeks talking about sanctification from Colossians 3. Sanctification is the Bible's word for the work of God, over the course of our lives, where He shapes us, through our active participation, to look more like Jesus.

During these two weeks, we recommend groups split up men and women, as we believe the questions during scripture and sermon discussion, lend themselves to a Care and Prayer style of conversation.

PRAYER + SCRIPTURE

The most vital component of our time together tonight is the Spirit of God making alive to us the Word of God. So we will start with prayer. We will open with a short prayer, take a minute or two of silent reflection, read the Scripture from Sunday, take one more minute of silent reflection, then close in prayer."

Open with a brief word of prayer: "God, we thank you for this time together. We open our hearts to how you might want to meet with us. Allow us to hear your voice and experience your work among us. Come Holy Spirit."

1-2 minutes of silent reflection.

Read Colossians 3:12-17

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, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts 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.

1-2 minutes of silent reflection.

Close with this short prayer: "God, on our own, we are not a kind, compassionate, and forgiving people, but you have shown us grace and mercy, and teach us to be like you through Jesus and the Spirit. Spirit, help us see the ways we can become more like Christ in our lives, and in our hearts and minds towards others. Christ, may we see you as Lord, represent you in the world, and do everything in thanks for what you have done for us. ."

As you reflect on Colossians 3:12-17, what is the Holy Spirit showing or teaching you?

SERMON DISCUSSION

Let's have a discussion around these main points from Sunday's teaching:

WHAT IS GODLY

Paul outlines specific areas of what is Godly, that is what we should put on in Christ. They are compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, patience, and forgiveness – summarized in one key word → love..

Which of these do you struggle to “put on” most right now and why?

HOW TO PUT ON LOVE

In the sermon, we heard three ways we can join God in putting on what is Godly. They are:

1. Remember you are part of the body of Christ.
2. Be thankful for your present community.
3. Memorize God's Word.

Which of these do you need to press into to encourage you to put on what is Godly?

HIDDEN WITH CHRIST

James 1:22 challenges followers of Jesus to “be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”

As Christians, we are the chosen, holy, and beloved of God. Loving others doesn't win you God's love, but rather having God's love creates in you love for others.

How can being the beloved of God motivate you towards the love of others this week?

CLOSING PRAYER

Pray over what was shared in the discussion, for your group to be united in the gospel, and for help from the Holy Spirit to be shaped to be more like Jesus as we put God's ways into practice.

DEFINITIONS OF MARKERS OF GODLINESS FROM COLOSSIANS 3

Compassionate Hearts – Deep seated pain over someone else’s difficulty or misfortune. We might more commonly refer to this as empathy. The ability to see the struggle someone else is dealing with, not stay reserved or disconnected or pulled back, but to enter into that pain with them and let it actually affect you on an interior level.

Kindness – The word here in Greek is best defined as the tangible meeting of real needs. To be kind is not simply to say something nice – it’s to step in and meet someone’s real need. This can be financial, relational, emotional, physical.

Humility – Thinking of others more highly and more often than yourself. The posture that switches when you enter a room, where you’re no longer entering thinking “Here I am!” but rather “There you are!” I’m getting my eyes off of myself and onto others.

Meekness – Meekness in the Scriptures is an active and deliberate acceptance of undesirable circumstances. It’s the ability to be hurt and not have to lash out in retaliation or defense, even when you can. It’s repute by Paul in verse 13 – “bearing with one another”. Allowing yourself to absorb the hit. Absorb the pain and not feel the need to play the victim, sulk, pout, or retaliate.

Patience – Goes right along with meekness as well. The Bible’s idea of patience is often translated in older translations as “long-suffering”. The ability to remain joyful over a long time even with the hurtful or frustration-inducing actions of someone else.

Forgiveness – Freely extending grace and pardon to someone else. Choosing to overlook when someone hurts you. Choosing to extend grace when someone does something you’d rather them not to. Being willing to reconcile and resolve the conflict.