



SERMON STUDY

GUIDE

Small Group Guide: Colossians 3.1-17

Open with Prayer:

Sermon Summary:

In a world that gravitates toward division, Paul calls the church to a radically different way of living. Because we have been raised with Christ, we have been given a new identity and a renewed mind, and those two things change everything. The old self, with all its sin and shame, has been put off. The new self, chosen, holy, and beloved, has been put on. And out of that identity flows a life clothed in compassion, kindness, humility, forgiveness, and love, held together by the peace and word of Christ in all we do.

Discussion Questions:

- 1. Paul opens in Colossians 3.1-2** by telling us to seek and set our minds on things above. What do you think that looks like practically in an ordinary week?
- 2. In Colossians 3.11**, Paul lists categories that divided people in the first century. Where do you see similar division today, inside and outside the church?
- 3. Paul uses the word "put to death" in Colossians 3.5.** Why do you think he uses such strong language? What does that tell us about how seriously God takes sin in the life of a believer?
- 4. Have you ever experienced a season** where your faith felt more like routine than relationship? What contributed to that, and what helped shift it?
- 5. Of the virtues listed in Colossians 3.12-14**, which one is hardest for you to wear consistently, and why?
- 6. Colossians 3.13 ties our forgiveness** of others directly to the forgiveness we have received from God. How does remembering what Christ forgave in you change the way you approach forgiving someone else?
- 7. Colossians 3.17 says** to do everything in the name of Jesus. What area of your life feels most disconnected from that call right now?

Key Takeaways:

- **You cannot out-sin His grip.** God chose you, declared you holy, and calls you beloved. That is not based on your performance. It is rooted in His love.

- **What you put off determines what you can put on.** The virtues of Colossians 3.12-14 cannot take root while the sins of Colossians 3.5-9 are still being nursed.
- **Unity is not the absence of difference.** It is the presence of Christ at the center, binding everything together in perfect harmony.

This Week:

- This week, **pick one virtue** from Colossians 3.12-14, whether compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, patience, or forgiveness, and write it on something you will see every day. **Each morning** ask God to help you wear it intentionally that day.
- At the end of the week, reflect on where it was easy, where it was hard, and what it revealed about where Christ is doing His renewing work in you.