

**SESSION 3 HOMEWORK**

**DAY 1 & 2**

Here we are in session 3 of our study and I am so happy you have stuck with me. I want you to know that I am praying for you. God is doing His good work in you and my prayer is that your heart would be open to that.

This session is only going to cover some of chapter 3 because there is a LOT here. So, some of chapter 3 and 4 will come next week.

Read Colossians 3:1-4 in the King James Version below.

*If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. 2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. 3 For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.*

The reason I had you read it in this version is because it gives us a little different perspective with the words it uses. What are we supposed to seek and set our affections on?

Read the following verses and write down what they tell us about what we should or should not seek or set our affections on.

Leviticus 19:18

Psalm 63:1

Psalm 105:4

Zephaniah 2:3

Matthew 6:33

Matthew 22:36-39

Luke 12:29 – 31

Luke 17:33

In your own words, describe what we are to seek and set our affections on according to these verses?

Read Colossians 3:5-9

Paul goes into two long lists of things that we should consider dead or put aside in us. Go ahead and list those here in two columns.

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The point Paul is trying to make is that these things happen when someone lives by their flesh or their old self and not according to their new life in Christ and by the Spirit of God. Read the following verses and jot down what you learn about the difference between living by the flesh and living by the Spirit?

Galatians 5:24-25

Romans 8:5

Let’s look back at our two columns. From what I can see it seems the first column has to do with satisfying our own fleshly/worldly desires and the second has to do with either how we will go about getting those or how we might act when we don’t. What do you think?

As you look at these lists, do you see a progression in the separate columns? If so, how? If you have time, you may want to look up the definition of those words to help you.

Read James 1:14-15 – Write out the progression?

Now let’s go back to our columns again. In our first column we see: Immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, greed and idolatry. They progress from our actions in toward our hearts and eventually lead to idolatry. God’s Word is showing us that what we do is a reflection of what is in our hearts and ultimately these things will lead to worship of other things besides God Himself, which is idolatry.

The second column also shows progression but from the inside out. Anger, Rage, Malice, Slander, Filthy language, and then on to lies. What is in the inside eventually comes out in our actions toward others.

God is showing us no matter how we look at it – outside in or inside out – what we do and say will reflect what is in our heart. This is why it is so vitally important that we focus on things above, desire God and think of good things.

Read Philippians 4:8 and list what it suggests we should think about.

So the question is; what have you been focusing on lately? What is in your heart?

How have those thoughts/desires affected your actions?

What are some things you can do to set your mind and heart on things above today?

FYI, I find prayer helps me immensely!

**DAY 3**

As we start today, I am sitting here wondering what you are wearing. I think the long-standing joke during this time of quarantine is that we all are wearing sweatpants or pajamas all day. And actually, I am sitting in my robe and pajamas – but it is still early in the morning. I actually have an outfit picked out for today, and it is something that will hopefully fit the climate for today.

How about you – do you pick out your outfit beforehand? What helps you make the decision about what to wear?

Read Colossians 3:9-11

I hope you see how Paul is referring to laying aside your old self and putting on your new self. One thing that truly sticks out to me in these verses is that all of us as believers are wearing the same clothes – which is Christ. It doesn’t matter what race, color, job, or socioeconomic status – it doesn’t matter what occasion it is, or what the weather is – as believers and followers of Christ, we all have the same uniform!

But still, I really want you to see that we do have a choice – we have a choice to put on Christ or our old selves. Every morning we can choose what we are going to put on by paying attention to what is in our mind and heart, just like we choose an outfit to wear.

Let’s face it…here in Minnesota, we often need to change clothes during the day since the climate changes frequently! Well, the same is true for our lives. As the climate (circumstances) of the day unfold, we may need to stop and think again about what is in our heart and consequently what we are wearing for the people around us.

What does Paul say we should put on in verses 12-13? Put them in the column below.

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Does this list look vaguely familiar? If you look back at your homework from Session 1, towards the end of Day 1, I had you look at Galatians 5:22-23. I had you list the opposites of those fruits of the Spirit. How can you see that those opposites might look like living with your old self verses the new?

Read Colossians 3:12-14

When I look at what Paul wrote in these verses I think of a patchwork quilt. I think most of us have seen a patchwork quilt before, but there are pieces or squares of different colors all sewn together into one quilt. As you can see, Paul wrote that we are to put on love, but I didn’t include love in the list above because I see love as the quilt and all those other things as pieces of it. So if we put on love, we are putting on compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, bearing with one another, and forgiveness. Maybe that is exactly what love looks like!

Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 and list what love is.

What are the similarities to our previous list?

I want to go back to one last thing so we can finish up today. It is clear that what we wear (spiritually speaking) is also what is in our hearts. So we need to be very careful as to what is lingering in our heart and mind.

Read Proverbs 4:23 below

*Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.*

What flows from your heart?

Ultimately, God wants us to have the gospel firmly rooted in our hearts and minds because it is God’s grace, love, forgiveness, mercy, kindness, faithfulness, joy and goodness that will fill our hearts – and then that is what will flow from us – in other words, what we wear!

Do you see anything in Colossians 3:15-17 that would give us some insight on what will help us guard our hearts?

I don’t want to give you the answer – but yet, I want to give you the answer so I am sure you are seeing what I see!

Here it goes:

1. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts
2. Be thankful
3. Let the word of Christ richly dwell in you
4. With all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms, hymns, spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God
5. Whatever you do in word or deed – do in the name of Jesus while giving thanks through Him to God the Father

List some practical ways you can do these things this week?

We will talk more about this next week but until then…well done good and faithful ones! May God’s Word dwell in you richly and may the peace of Christ rule in your heart. I am so thankful to God for you and may whatever you do in word or deed be done in the name of the Lord. Amen!