

Growth Group Guide

Connect

Start your discussion with this question:

- Think of an influential Christian in your life. What character qualities does/did that person possess? In what way does/did that person impact or influence you? What seemed to motivate or empower that person to be this way?

Read

Read Colossians 3:1-13 aloud at least twice in a couple different translations if possible. Jot down some key observations.

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Engage

Discuss these questions based on the text:

- In 3:1, Paul starts by saying “If then” and in v 5 Paul starts by saying “therefore.” How does 3:1-4 relate to both chapter 2 and the remainder of chapter 3?
- Describe the mindset that believers are to have as Paul indicates in 3:1-4. Why should a believer’s mind and life focus on Christ?
- Define and categorize the earthly things Paul lists in 3:5-9. Compare and contrast the list in vv 5-9 with the list in vv 12-13.
- How do a believer’s mindset and pursuits contrast to those promoted by the false teachers in Colossae (peek back to chapter 2)?
- What are the motivating factors for living in the way Paul describes in these verses? Where does Paul allude to these motivating factors in this passage? In this chapter? In Colossians as a whole?

Respond

Think through these questions together:

- Paul says in 3:2 to “set your minds on things above, where Christ is.” Compare this to other verses like Romans 12:2, Ephesians 4:23, 1 Peter 3:8. What is the importance of the mind in the Christian life? How does the mind influence behavior or lifestyle?
- How can we read a passage like this and not come away with the idea that Christianity is nothing more than a list of dos and don’ts? How might you combat this common perception of Christianity?

Growth Groups at CBC are a key pathway toward making disciples of Jesus Christ.

Growth Groups include...

Word: Studying, understanding, and applying the Bible.

Walk: Praying, caring, serving, and connecting with others.

Witness: Intentionally reaching out to the world around us.

Worship: Fostering growth in knowledge, faith, love, service, obedience, and maturity.

This guide incorporates these elements in conjunction with the current preaching series. Intended for use by Growth Groups that meet every two weeks, but can be easily modified for other uses.

- Paul tells us to put off the old self and put on the new self. What is the difference between the two? What does Paul say is happening to the new self? How have you seen/are you seeing this in yourself? Your spouse? Your children? Others?
- Paul says in v 11 that, when we put on the new self, there is no distinction between religious forms, social or economic class, cultural norms, etc. What point is Paul making here in this verse?

Dig

Over the next several days, consider these things:

- Memorize and meditate on 3:1-4. Consider what is true of you because of Christ, and consider your response to seek things above, where Christ is.
- Evaluate your life in light of verses 5-13. Where do you see yourself needing to put off the old self? Where do you see yourself needing to put on the new self? Talk to God about these things. Confess if necessary. Ask Him for help in this.
- Many of the commands/character traits in this passage are inherently relational, meaning that they really only play out in relationship with others. As you've looked at and meditated on this list, consider your relationships. Is there a relationship in your life you need to repair or reset based on these verses? Think about this. Pray about this. Consider going to the other person with an apology or with forgiveness, however the case may be.

Go

- Consider how your upward focus and new self might affect or influence the people around you. As you go about your week, look for the Lord at work in your interactions.
- How might you contribute to a loving, harmonious CBC church body that reflects the Lord in the community?

Pray

- Take some time to pray together for each other's needs and concerns. Also, pray for each other in regard to putting off the old self and putting on the new.
- Pray for CBC as a whole, that collectively our minds would be Christ-focused and that we would as a body live out the principles described in this passage.

Care

- Is there a specific need among the group that you can help care for? How can you help?
- Make a point to connect with and encourage one or more of your group members between now and the next meeting.

Plan

Next group meeting with be

at _____

on _____.

