

Growth Group Guide

Connect

Start your discussion with these questions:

- What would you consider to be some characteristics of a healthy church community?
- What would you consider to be characteristics of healthy roles and relationships in a family?

Read

Read Colossians 3:14-21 aloud at least twice in a couple translations. Jot down some key observations.

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Engage

Discuss these questions based on the text:

- How does this passage fit into the broader context of chapter 3? Of the Colossians letter as a whole? Explain the flow of the letter and how this passage relates to its context.
- In verses 14-17, Paul gives a handful of commands about relating and interacting in a Christian community. What are these commands? Discuss the importance of each command in a church community. How do they contribute to a vibrant church community?
- In verses 18-21, Paul gives a handful of commands about order and roles in a family. What are these commands? Discuss the importance of each command in a family environment. How do they contribute to a Lord-pleasing family environment?

Respond

Talk through these questions together as a group:

- Some of the directives in verses 14-17 are inherently relational (e.g. “teaching and admonishing one another...”) while others seem more individual with relational implications (e.g. “let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts”). How does one’s individual state affect the vibrancy of a community? What is the connection between a healthy church and individuals in the church? You may want to peek back at earlier verses in chapter 3 to compare Paul’s descriptions of old and new self.
- In 3:10-11, Paul removes the distinction between different groups of people. Then, in 3:18-4:1, Paul distinguishes between different groups of people and specifically addresses these groups. How do we reconcile these two passages? What is Paul saying?

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.

- Consider the family roles Paul describes in verses 18-21. What are some examples of ways that a wife submits to her husband? What are some examples of ways a husband loves his wife? What are some examples of ways a child obeys his/her parents? What are some examples of ways a father refrains from provoking his children? How do these examples reflect a family environment that “pleases the Lord”?
- Given where this passage lands in Colossians, what is the motivation and purpose of these commands regarding Christian communities and families? How do these community and family commands relate to the groundwork Paul laid in the previous chapters of Colossians?

Dig

Over the next several days, consider these things:

- Memorize and meditate on 3:17. Reflect on your general mindset: Do you tend to go about your business doing what you do in the name of the Lord Jesus giving thanks to God the Father through Him? Pray about this.
- Look at the community directives mentioned in verses 12-17. Evaluate yourself in light of these statements. How are you doing in regard to these commands? What needs to change in how you relate with others? Is there anyone specific that comes to mind? Pray about this.
- Look at the family roles/positions mentioned in verses 18-21. Which of these best describes your current position in life? How are you doing in your role in light of the commands listed? What needs to change in how you live out your role? Pray about this. You may find it useful to talk this through with your spouse or a trusted friend.

Go

- Consider your relationships and interactions in the CBC church community, in your family context, and in the broader community in light of the lists Paul gives in verses 5-17. Prayerfully and intentionally seek to reach out to and interact with others in accordance with these lists.

Pray

- Take some time to pray together for each other’s needs and concerns.
- Pray for each other regarding interactions and relationships in the church community, in the family, and in the broader community.
- Pray for CBC as a church community. Specifically, that it would increasingly reflect Paul’s description here of a vibrant community, and that our families would grow in health and vitality.

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 will be

at _____

on _____.

