

October 9/10, 2021

Thanksgiving Weekend
“A People of Gratitude in a World of Entitlement”

The SCRIPTURE: Colossians 3:12-17

The BIG IDEA:

“Jesus calls us to exchange *entitled living* for a life of gratitude.”

The Challenge: Will we resist our culture’s pull to live with a sense of entitlement? Will we humbly prioritize loving God and others? May our free and frequent expressions of gratitude to God and others become identity markers that cause others to stop, wonder, and ask: “*What is this?*” and “*How can I have this?*”

Icebreaker Question:

- Share about someone you encountered this week who brightened your day, and for whom you are thankful. What character quality did their action display?

Questions for Discussion:

1. Verse 12:
 - Paul and other writers¹ used the metaphor “**clothe yourselves**”. What does it mean to “*clothe yourselves*” and how do we actually do it?
 - Paul invites us to “**clothe ourselves**” with 5 different actions, behaviours, and attitudes. Which of these do you find most challenging? Why?
2. Verse 13:
 - What does it mean to “**Bear with each other...**”? Give an example of someone you know who models “*Bearing with*” in a practical way?
 - How are “*Bear with*” and “*forgive one another*” related? What makes both actions so challenging, and so important?
3. Verse 14:
 - What is Paul asking us to do when he says, “**put on love**”? This is sometimes easy, sometimes difficult. Why? Give an example of a time when you were the beneficiary of someone “**putting on love**”?
4. Verses 15-17:
 - Three times in 3 verses Paul mentions *thanksgiving* (“be thankful”, “with gratitude”, and “give thanks”). What is the relationship between: thankfulness and humility; thankfulness and pride; thankfulness and entitlement?

Application:

- Express thanks to God for a specific way(s) he is loving, caring, and providing for you. Express thanks for others who are a help and blessing in your life.
- Think of a way(s) that you, individually or as a group, can practically “*put on love*” for others this week and in the weeks leading to Christmas?

¹Genesis 35:2, Isaiah 32:11, Ezekiel 34:3, Romans 13:14, Galatians 3:27, 1 Peter 5:5.