



## **GROUP ICE BREAKER**

Describe a times you showed up somewhere wearing the wrong clothing. (ex: arriving dressed casually at a formal event) How did you feel being over or under dressed?

## **REVIEW LAST WEEK'S NEXT STEPS**

What, if any, next step did you commit to last week, how did it go?

- I'm deciding today to die to an area of sin in my life.
- I will do whatever it takes to put an end to sexual sin in my life.
- I will seek forgiveness for slandering someone.
- I will pursue a mind that is fully set on things above.
- I will engage in spiritual practices that help transform my mind.
- I will spend an unhurried amount of time in Scripture this week.
- I will meditate on a passage of Scripture that relates to something I struggle with.

## **THIS WEEK'S SERMON RECAP**

What we choose to wear and how we wear it communicates to those around us, and how we dress tells a story about our attitudes, beliefs, preferences, prejudices, etc. Paul uses the imagery of clothing in his letter to the Colossians, describing what we need to put on as we choose to follow Christ. Paul begins with the attitudes of our attire. There are five attitudes that are to be identifiers of Christ in us in our relationship with others. These include compassion or a feeling of mercy deep in the heart, kindness or an action that arises out of a sense of sympathy, humility or lifting up others before yourself, gentleness or controlled strength, and patience or the capacity to be wronged and not retaliate. The transformation of Christ in us is a transformation of attitude, simply put: think different and be different. That difference is also reflected in the actions of our attire. Paul says there will be difficult and challenging people, but you are to forgive them. Forgive them with the same forgiveness God has forgiven you. Forgiveness frees my future from my past, it is more about you than the person you are forgiving. It is powerful, more powerful than what was done to you. We are commanded to put on love as a Christ-follower, to love is a demonstration of God in us living through us. So ask yourself, who is the who I'm to demonstrate Christ to?

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. Colossians 3:12 describes God's people as holy, or set apart, and dearly loved. What does it mean to be set apart? How do you experience being loved by God?



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (CONT)

2. What does it mean to “clothe yourselves” with the attitudes and actions Paul lists?
3. Both the attitudes and actions are to be lived out in our relationships with others. How has following Jesus changed the way you interact with people?
4. Of the five attitudes listed (compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience), which do you feel you’re growing in the most? Why? Which do you feel you could use more growth in? Why?
5. What does it look like to forgive someone? How have you seen forgiveness at work in your life, either giving or receiving?
6. Why do you think Paul tells us to put on love over all the other attitudes and actions he mentions?
7. Who is the who you can demonstrate Christ to this week? Share with the group someone who comes to your mind and how you can display an attribute or action of this new attire to them this week.

## NEXT STEPS FOR THIS WEEK (COMMIT TO GROW)

- I will look at the needs of others through the lens of compassion.
- I will engage with the need of another in an act of kindness.
- I will commit to a humble attitude of myself.
- I will demonstrate gentleness in my words and actions towards others.
- I will practice patience with others in difficult circumstances.
- I will let go of past hurts through acts of forgiveness.
- I will demonstrate love to others just as Christ has shown love to me.

## SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

- Colossians 3:12-14
- 1 Peter 5:5
- Matthew 18:21-22
- Ephesians 4:32
- John 13:35