

Questions week beginning March 3 2024

Optional Ice breaker (choice of 2)

- a. Do you have a favourite piece of clothing that you like to wear?
- b. What is the most unusual outfit you have ever worn?

Read Colossians 3:12-17

1. In verse 12 Paul calls the church 3 things. Being “dearly loved” is fairly straight forward to understand but what does it mean to be:
 - i. God’s chosen people? (Some versions use the words “the elect”)
 - ii. Holy?
2. Paul lists 5 Christ-like virtues in verse 12 that the church should be “clothed with”.
 - i. Go through each virtue one at a time and identify an incident in Jesus’ life where he demonstrated that particular virtue.
 - ii. On Sunday Glyn shared a personal story which interlinked all 5 of these virtues. Have you every been so “moved with compassion” for someone that it led you to engage in a humble act of gentle kindness, over a period of time, toward them?
 - iii. The Message paraphrase of verse 12 starts with the words “*dress in the wardrobe God picked out for you*”. What do you think about the metaphor Paul uses in this verse about being “*clothed*” or “*dressed*” in these virtues? Do you think it is a good comparative image?
3. In the TV sitcom Miranda, one of the characters, Tilly, regularly uses the expression “bear with” when she breaks off a conversation to answer her phone or read a text. For her it means to “hang on and wait until I have done this thing, I will get back to you in a minute”.
 - i. What do you think Paul means when he says, “*bear with one another*”?
 - ii. What might “*bearing with one another*” look like in your life this week?
4. Paul said that the example we should follow when it comes to forgiveness is the one that Jesus showed - “*forgive as the Lord forgave you*” (v13) What do you think Paul means by this? Is it simply a call to forgive others because Jesus forgave us or are we meant to forgive in a certain way, just like Jesus did?
5. Paul talks about love “binding” all of these virtues in “perfect unity”(v14). What else could motivate people to demonstrate these virtues listed in verse 12 if it isn’t love and what happens if these virtues are not done “in love”?
6. Paul says to “*let the Peace of Christ rule in your hearts*” because we are “*called to peace*”(v15)
 - i. How do we go about letting Christ’s peace rule in us? Are there any actions that we can take that will encourage this to happen?
 - ii. What may act as a barrier to the peace of Christ ruling in us?
 - iii. If we are “called to peace” does that mean that Christians should not join the armed forces?
 - iv. If we are called to peace” does that means that Christians should not join any public demonstrations?
7. Paul talks about the “message of Christ” dwelling richly among them as they engage in teaching, admonishing and singing (v17)
 - i. Admonishing means to urge, advise, warn or reprimand someone. What things do we need to keep in mind whenever we use the message of Jesus in this way?
 - ii. Paul lists 3 different types of songs in v16. What are “*songs from the Spirit*”?
 - iii. Would you say that the message of Jesus is dwelling richly in you?
8. Paul ends verses 15, 16 and 17 with a call to be grateful and give thanks. What are you giving thanks to God for today?