

## Leader Notes for January 28, 2018 Homework

### Quick Review

1. In his sermon, Pastor Mark covered the virtues listed in Colossians 3:12-17. From Mark's sermon, which attributes caught your attention? What illustrations opened your eyes to new insight or understanding? Share your thoughts with the group.

### My Story

1. Has anyone ever told you that were not living up to a certain standard or expectation? Was it helpful or hurtful? Why?
2. Finding one's identify is a common endeavor for most people. Think back to middle school or high school. In what ways did you search for your identity? Were you able to find it? If not, at what point of your life did you become sure of who you are?

### Digging Deeper

1. In Col. 3:12, why do you think Paul begins with the phrase "chosen ones, holy and beloved" before beginning his discussion of the attributes we put on? What point is he attempting to make? Reflect on Colossians 2:6; Eph. 4:1-3; Romans 7:13-25, 8:1-11 as you attempt to answer this question.

**Leader Notes:** This is a great opportunity to communicate and clarify the gospel. Remind the participants that because of Christ, we are a new creation and we have received a new identity. 2 Cor. 5:16-19. We are to operate out of our new identity that has been repurposed in Christ through displaying the various attributes associated with Christ (Gal. 5:16-26). In other words, before you attempt to wear the attributes of a Christian you should be sure that you have identified yourself with the one who has offered himself for you. In addition, understanding that you are a chosen one, holy and beloved is a motivation for embracing and enacting upon the virtues that display what it means to be a follower of Christ.

2. Read I Corinthians 13:4-13. Love is central to the Christian faith. Why does Paul state that love is the binding agent of all virtues noted in I Cor. 13. See Col. 3:14 and Gal. 5:14. In other words, why is love necessary for the expression of all attributes noted in Colossians 3:12-17?
3. Read Colossians 3:16. How do the teachings of Christ, found in public worship (sermons or singing) teach and admonish the church? How does corporate worship shape our faith as a result of worshipping together with the body of Christ?

## Taking it Home

1. Like putting on your daily outfit, putting on the virtues of God is something we choose to do. How will you put on the virtues of Col. 3:12-17 this week? Which specific attribute needs your immediate attention?
2. Christians throughout the world meet together and worship each week. How can you get ready to sit under the teaching and admonishment of scripture and song as you prepare for worship this coming Sunday? In short, how can you prepare for the word of Christ to dwell richly in your heart?

Leader Notes: Warn the group that believers are prone to place more emphasis on the aesthetics of their worship experience rather than what is stirring in their heart. Ask, "are the teachings of Christ, penetrating the deepest regions of your heart? When singing the songs of faith, are the great truths of what Christ has done for you reminding you of the transformation that has taken place?" While form of worship can sometimes impede the worship experience, it is most often the heart of the worshipper that stands in the way of a transformative experience with Christ leading to thankfulness in one's heart. Close in prayer, asking God for a radical encounter with Christ as the church worships together resulting in widespread thanksgiving.