

## Press in and Pour out

Although this study in Colossians is timeless, I want to send all the groups a prayer focused flyer that was available on Sunday morning that deals with a current crisis in our world. Please take time to read the scriptures supplied and join with many in the body of Christ to pray for the many who are being displaced in the Middle East, Africa, etc. We're being told that this is the largest mass movement of people since World War 2, make no mistake God is at work amid the evil that we are witnessing in our world.

Ironically, the church in Colossae (and all the seven churches listed in the Book of Revelation) was located in modern day Turkey where thousands of refugees have fled to in our time.

Paul's letter to the Ephesians was focused on "us in Christ", where the letter to the Colossians was concentrated on "Christ in us", the truth of who Jesus is in us.

*"Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. <sup>6</sup> Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. <sup>7</sup> You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. <sup>8</sup> But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. <sup>9</sup> Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices <sup>10</sup> and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator." (Colossians 3:5-10)*

Because of God's great grace at times we minimize that a day is coming when Jesus will judge this world. A time of God's wrath against sin is coming, thankfully our sin has experience this wrath at the cross of Jesus.

Because we are in Christ, we already "please" God so that's not what our study is all about. But because of who you are in God's family, it becomes a "putting off" (your old life) and "putting on" (things that are indicative in your new life and family).

**Are the people around you experiencing the best of God within you?**

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Randy told us about a couple who adopted two girls from an African orphanage. The new parents brought new clothes for the girls. It was very easy for people who live in that area to recognize the children of the orphanage because their clothes were worn and tattered. The new clothes that they received and are now wearing were because they were in a new family.

Paul is using the language of adoption, saying; if you put on your old clothes you're acting like you're not a part of His family. Frankly those old clothes don't make sense anymore.

*“<sup>11</sup> Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.” (:11)*

“Here” is the key word, here and now, in his family, “there is no”... All of our differences do not define us in his family. We can misunderstand Paul's list as a list of virtues, but he is simply identifying our new clothes.

**Salvation isn't so that one-day we can take our place in heaven.  
Salvation is that heaven has now taken its place in us.**

*“Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.” (:12)*

Friendship is people walking side-by-side drawing the best from one another. We help one another put on and walk with new clothes, maturing and growing together with new clothes.

The reality of living even in God's family, you will be hurt, inconsideration's, things said, etc. God's calling us to bear with one another in forgiveness and walking in kindness, compassion and patience.

**What if the work of God within us was for the sake of those around us?**

*“<sup>13</sup> Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.” (:13)*

*“<sup>14</sup> And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.” (:14)*

**Press into Jesus that your life might pour into others.**

*“<sup>15</sup> Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.” (:15)*

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<sup>16</sup> *Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly...” (:16a)*

*“...as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. <sup>17</sup> And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”  
**(Colossians 3:16-17)***

The scriptures instruct us first and foremost to *pray*, but the second most mentioned command is to “*sing*”. God is our audience; this is a natural response of praise and adoration to our creator and father.

But we are also calling to one another with many messages like “trust God” “put your hope in God” and of course our adoration to Jesus. Don’t lose the gift of song, it doesn’t matter if you’re gifted in this area or not. This is a gift to God, each other and to ourselves.

*“Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. 2 Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. 3 Know that the LORD is God. It is he, who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture. 4 Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. 5 For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.” **(Psalm 100:1-5)***

**Thankfulness = *wanting what I have***

## **Discussion Questions**

- 1) In 3:5-10, we are reminded that God’s wrath is coming, that he will not only judge the world, but sin. Although not the focus of today’s lesson, discuss why this gets minimized today in the larger church and the truth that God poured out his wrath on our sins many years ago on the cross of Jesus.
- 2) In verses 7-10, 12 it talks about the “new clothes” that we need to put on. What are those new clothes and what does that look like in our daily lives in relation to unbelievers and our brothers and sisters in Christ?
- 3) In verses 9 and 10, Paul tells us: “*Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices <sup>10</sup> and have put on the new self*”. The girls Randy spoke about had been given new clothes from their new family to replace the “orphanage clothes”. Paul is using the language of adoption, saying; if you put on your old clothes you’re acting like you’re not a part of His family. Discuss why putting

using the language of adoption, saying; if you put on your old clothes you're acting like you're not a part of His family. Discuss why putting on these old clothes doesn't make sense anymore and what are these old clothes for you?

- 4) Although the focus of our study is Christ in us and the "new clothes" God has given us, discuss what verses 13 & 14 say to us: "What if the work of God within us was for the sake of those around us"?
  
- 5) Lastly, sticking with that theme, what does verses 15-17 say to us about pressing into Jesus, that our lives might pour into others and about singing?