



SDG Discussion Guide

Colossians 3:1-17

September 9, 2018

For starters:

In buying clothes, are you a name-brand buyer? A bargain hunter? Spouse conscious? Quality conscious? Style conscious? (Or could you care less what others think? Really?)

Think of a good friend of yours. What is a quality about him or her that has stood out to you?

Interaction with the text: The following questions are meant to provide points of further interaction with the respective sermon text. Feel free to forward the questions to your small group members ahead of the respective Sunday. Group members may also find these questions in print on that Sunday.

As you can, read aloud the passages in your group; read them aloud a second time but from a different Bible translation (eg, read from the Message after first reading from the NIV). Before you begin your discussion, pray and ask God to speak to your group. Notice, what may God be highlighting for your discussion and learning?

Now that you have read the text together, what points and questions arose? Spend plenty of time in your group to address these. Explore and see how God may steer the discussion. The following are further questions for interaction.

1. How are we to grow in our spiritual life (vv 1-4)? How does that contrast with the things that don't lead to growth (see 2:16-23)? How is setting your mind and heart on Christ related to what he *has already done* for us (v 1)? To what he *will* do for us (v 4)?
2. How much contrast is there between the "clothes" of the earthly nature (vv 5-11) and those of God's chosen people (vv 12-17)? How hard would it seem to take off the first and put on the second? How is it possible (see 2:6-7,10)?
3. What practical difference does this "new clothing" make in the relationship between wives and husbands? Between parents and children? Employers and employees?
4. What confirms that all these relationships are to be built around Christ?
5. Is the person in verses 12-17 calm, cool and in control or self-controlled but also lavish in his or her love for others? Do you seek to resemble the first or second?
6. We get all too used to "earthly nature" clothing. Which aspect of your old nature feels like a comfortable old T-shirt to you now? Why is it difficult to shed or remove?
7. With what piece of Christ's wardrobe would you like to replace it? Which aspect of Christ's character do you need to clothe yourself with, in relation to an important relationship in your life?

Spend some time in prayer. Ask God to continue to speak to you from his word in this passage. Pray, how can your small group help with your "clothing section"? As you go forth, be listening for God's response....

*These questions were adapted from *The Serendipity Bible for Groups* (Zondervan, 1998).