

Midweek Discussion Questions on Col 3:5-17

Note well: These discussion questions are not necessarily intended to closely follow your sermon notes, but I hope that they will offer a similarly useful review of the text.

Take home: *Considering* the transformation that Christ has brought about in us (vv 5, 9b-12a), we need to *put off* (vv5, 8, 9a) and *put on* (vv 12b-17). Considering the change within us already achieved by Christ, we need to actively undergo a “wardrobe change”, putting off unsuitable “clothes” (attitudes, actions, words, affections) and putting on suitable ones.

1. Paul urges us to *consider*—to consider the inward gospel transformation that Christ had already achieved in His own. Verses 5, 9b-12a give descriptions of that transformation. List those descriptions.
2. Having helped us to accurately consider the Christ-accomplished gospel change already completed in us, Paul then directs us to put off/put on. Sometimes we think of the gospel in terms of *justification* (God for Christ’s sake accepts me as perfectly righteous once and for all) and *sanctification* (God through Christ enables me to live for His glory and progressively makes me righteous in attitude and action). Into which of these 2 gospel categories do Paul’s commands to put of/put on belong?
3. BONUS QUESTION: Can you identify some other verses in the *Book of Colossians* that refer to the *justification* category of the gospel?
4. PUT OFF. “But now you also put them all aside. . .” In verses 5, 8, 9a Paul identifies the “unsuitable clothes” that Christians ought to put off. Can you summarize some of the “sin categories” they fit into? Can you suggest an adjective that would describe a person or church who is making good progress in putting these off?
5. What warning and reminder in verses 6, 7 are attached to the command to put them all aside? Can you identify other similar warning passages in your Bible? If God accepts us for Christ’s sake and saints will persevere in the state of grace, then why does our Bible bother to warn us?
6. PUT ON. Try to summarize “categories of righteousness” or adjectives that would describe a person or a church who is having success in putting on as he/she ought: Verse 12? Verse13?
7. Try to summarize from verses 14-17 some “Hallmarks of a Healthy Church” . Try to imagine what it would be like to attend a local church where these were absent.