

Announcements

Communion Sunday is this weekend, February 5.

Membership class is also this Sunday evening, February 5th from 5:30pm to 7:30pm. If you would like to sign up but have not, email Isaac at imartinez@trinitychurch.org to let him know how many will be in your party and whether or not you need childcare. Dinner is provided.

Just for Fun

QUESTION: What is something good that happened to you this week?

Getting Dressed for Life Together

This week we had a guest speaker and so we will be exploring some passages which relate to the scriptures we have been studying in Pastor's series.

Therefore, as God's chosen ones, holy and dearly loved, put on compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, ¹³ bearing with one another and forgiving one another if anyone has a grievance against another. Just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you are also to forgive. ¹⁴ Above all, put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity. (Col 3:12-14, CSB).

In these verses, Paul speaks of walking in the virtues of the Spirit as putting on clothes. But he grounds the discussion in our awareness of who we are in Christ Jesus. He calls us God's chosen ones, who are holy and dearly loved. It is only by first recognizing that God has chosen us as his children, has set us a part for holiness, and has loved us dearly that we can be prepared for the self-giving love that Paul calls us to in these verses.

QUESTION: What do you think Paul is communicating to us by using the image of putting on clothing in these verses?

Question: Can you think of a time that you chose to 'put on' one of these virtues in a specific situation? What was it, and how did it turn out?

Not only does Paul say that our love for one another is grounded in God's love for us, but the way that God loves us is through our love for one another. Note that Paul's instructions reflect the character of God's love. God shows his gentleness, compassion, and mercy to us, *through us*. We cannot experience the love of God in the way that he intended unless we are living in what he calls the "perfect bond of unity". Our unity leads to expression of God's love to and through us.

Question: Can you think of a time that you felt God's love expressed to you through the words or actions of another person?

Worship Together in the Body

In the next verses of this chapter, Paul describes the worship that happens within a community living in the unity of love. Let's read verses 15 through 17:

15 And let the peace of Christ, to which you were also called in one body, rule your hearts. And be thankful. **16** Let the word of Christ dwell richly among you, in all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another through psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. **17** And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him (Col 3:15-17, CSB).

In these verses Paul speaks of a body of believers who are living at peace, not just individually, but living in peace together. This body dwells on the word of Christ, teaches, preaches, and sings--all in a spirit of gratitude. Many of us have heard verse seventeen before in the context of how we live our lives individually. This isn't wrong. But within its context verse seventeen is talking about our gathering together as a body for worship. For Paul, God is glorified when we gather for worship having clothed ourselves in love, compassion, and mercy. God is glorified when his people are unified.

QUESTION: What are some practical ways that we as a body of believers can cloth ourselves in love to be unified as a family in Christ Jesus?

Prayer

Take the time to check on prayer requests from last week and pray for any new or continuing needs in the group. Give praise to God for answered prayer.