



Colossians: Jesus Over Everything

October 1 – Colossians 3:12-17 | Group Discussion Guide

Begin with silence and prayer (5 minutes).

Begin your time together in silence. In your silence, acknowledge that the Lord God, the Creator and Sustainer of everything and everyone, is worthy of all praise.

After you have finished sitting in silence, have someone in the group pray for your time together.

Spend a few moments reciting your memory verse from last week: **Colossians 3:5-11**.

Split into smaller groups to read Colossians 3:12-17 and discuss (15 minutes).

Take a few minutes to read **Colossians 3:12-17**. Once you've finished reading, answer the following questions:

- This passage is full of qualities of the Christian life. Which one stood out to you as it was read?
- What kind of clothing does verse 12 say we should put on? What does it mean to clothe ourselves "as God's chosen people"? How is that different than trying to clothe ourselves as our own selves?
- Compare verse 12 to the Fruit of the Spirit found in Galatians 5:22. What role does the Holy Spirit play in helping us put on those qualities?

- In verse 14, what binds all those qualities together in perfect unity? Describe that kind of love and what it means to you.
- What kind of peace does verse 15 say to have rule in our hearts? Why does it matter who our peace comes from when being members of one body?
- Gratitude is repeated in this passage. What makes gratitude important in Christian community?

Once you've finished with these questions, spend one minute reflecting on your conversation. Is there anything that's sticking with you from God's word? Share this with the group.

Come back together as a large group to talk about the sermon (30 minutes).

- What's been your experience of Christian community? How has it drawn you to know and love God?
- To begin his sermon, Matt shared about harmony – how all the parts of an orchestra create music together. Can you think of a time when the harmony of Christian community stirred something in you? What did it stir?
- Matt mentioned five ways Christian community happens. In which of these ways have you noticed growth in your life? In which one do you sense God inviting you to go the next step?
 - We bear with one another.
 - We forgive one another.
 - We love one another.
 - The peace of Christ rules in our hearts.
 - The Word of God dwells in us.
- In John 17:22-23, Jesus prayed that the church would be united. How is unity in the church a witness to the world around us? How does disunity hurt our witness?
- Matt defined "bearing with one another" as being patient with one another's imperfections and weaknesses—pressing into uncomfortable relationships rather than avoiding them. He specifically mentioned pressing in with people who are difficult for us to love or who are suffering. When have you lovingly engaged in an uncomfortable relationship? How did it change your relationship with that person? With God?

Finish with logistics and prayer (10 minutes).

1. Make sure to inform your group about the study devotions available to help you walk through the text of Colossians! You can find that material at thecreek.org/devotionals.
2. Sign up for Tether! Tether is an incredible tool in that it will give us practical next steps to live out what we learn on Sundays and in our groups throughout the week. You can view it and download it here:
<https://withtether.app.link/download>
3. Also, be sure to challenge your group to memorize the verses for this week: Colossians 3:5-11 You'll be asked next week to recite them in group!
4. Finish your group session with prayer.

Break everyone down into triads to end the night with prayer for one another. In the groups, have people share "What is on your heart that you need prayer for?" and then spend time praying for those things.