

Home Group Leader's Notes

October 14, 2019 - The message this week was from Bill Born

SHARE IT

What might it feel like to be a new Justice of the Supreme Court? What might it change in one's life?

NOTES TO LEADERS: The focus of this week continues on how we are to live out what it means to be "in Christ" as God's chosen people. Last week's SHARE IT question focused on our identity as a 17 year old. This week's question is about considering how our lives change when our identity changes.

LEARN FROM THE BIBLE

Last week, the focus was on "taking off" the former way of life – selfish and unkind. This week's passage looks at how His people reflect the character of God in their lives. Read Colossians 3:12-17.

How does Paul (the author) describe those who are in Christ? What is our new identity? (3:1-4, 12-17)

NOTES TO LEADERS: Our identity is not our behavior. Rather, "Christ is our life, God's chosen people." Understanding that we are in Christ and He is in us, that "Christ is our life" is the key to being like Christ in our behavior. We cannot look at this as another list of rules. That would be law. Rather, this is relationship – because we love and are one with Christ, He now lives through us.

List the seven specific commands that are given. (12-17)

NOTES TO LEADERS:

- Clothe yourselves
- Bear with and forgive
- Forgive
- Put on
- Let the peace of Christ
- Let the word of Christ
- Do it all

How is Christ connected with each of these imperatives?

NOTES TO LEADERS: Each of these is a quality of Christ. Note how every command is tied to Christ and our identity in Him.

How would you summarize how we are to live?

NOTES TO LEADERS: The intention of this question is to help each person have a handle or summary of who they are in Christ.

DISCUSS TOGETHER

How is our new identity and mindset the key to the fulfillment of this new lifestyle? How is this way of living a result of the Word of Christ dwelling in us? (3:1-4, 12, 17)

NOTES TO LEADERS: Because of the danger of attempting to fulfill these commands in the flesh, we need to keep our focus on Christ living in and through us. This is how we trust God with our daily attitudes and actions. One person last week said that when they were 17, basketball was their life.

So he thought about it, hung out with other players, studied videos, and basketball was his life. For us, Christ is our life.

Knowing that the commands are all addressed to “you” plural, what might it look like for us to live out this “new self” together? (For example, how might we “teach and admonish” one another?)

NOTES TO LEADERS: The danger of American independent living creeps in. WE are called to learn and live these together. This conversation should get real about how we love and encourage one another to keep our heart and mind focused on Christ.

How do our differences make these commands difficult to fulfill?

NOTES TO LEADERS: As Bill pointed out in his message, we have differences and these can cause division and dislike. But since Christ is our life, we have oneness in Him and this should result in our new lifestyle.

**May our Father encourage you as you shepherd His people,
Steve**