

Respond / Reflect:

Who are the sandpaper people in your life?

When was the last time you walked an extra mile or did an act of service for your sandpaper person(s)?
How did that change your heart toward them or your relationship with them?

If Paul were writing Colossians 3:11 to the church in the USA today, what divisions and labels would he use?

Paul commands us to clothe / put on compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, forgiveness, and love. Which of these are easiest for you to wear? Which do you keep in the closet?

What would our community look like if we loved people we would not naturally love (sandpaper people) the way Jesus Christ loves them?

“Try It!”

1. Pray prayers of blessing for your sandpaper person(s).
2. Do an act of kindness for your sandpaper person(s).

Read through the book of Colossians once a week during this series. Consider using different translations.

Memorize Colossians 3:17:

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

Prayer:

Spend time in prayer with/for the other people who are with you.

Father, thank you for loving us so much that we can love you and each other. Clothe me/us with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience so I/we may look more and more like Jesus. As you have forgiven me/us, make me/us more forgiving of the sandpaper people in my/our lives. We long for you to come and make your home in our heart and life, In the name of the exalted Christ. Amen.

Missional/Spiritual Practice for the Month: Loving our Neighbor

During the month of September, we prayed every day for five (one for every finger on your hand) of our neighbors and five of our coworkers/classmates by name. During the month of October, try and learn something new about 3 of these people by being present with them and asking good questions and listening well.

Colossians 3:11-14

New International Version

¹¹ Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.

¹² Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ¹³ Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴ And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Colossians 3:11-14

The Message

⁹⁻¹¹ Don't lie to one another. You're done with that old life. It's like a filthy set of ill-fitting clothes you've stripped off and put in the fire. Now you're dressed in a new wardrobe. Every item of your new way of life is custom-made by the Creator, with his label on it. All the old fashions are now obsolete. Words like Jewish and non-Jewish, religious and irreligious, insider and outsider, uncivilized and uncouth, slave and free, mean nothing. From now on everyone is defined by Christ, everyone is included in Christ.

¹²⁻¹⁴ So, chosen by God for this new life of love, dress in the wardrobe God picked out for you: compassion, kindness, humility, quiet strength, discipline. Be even-tempered, content with second place, quick to forgive an offense. Forgive as quickly and completely as the Master forgave you. And regardless of what else you put on, wear love. It's your basic, all-purpose garment. Never be without it.