

**Sermon-Based Questions**  
**March 24, 2019**  
**Dave Gustavsen**

**Simply Jesus**  
Clothed in His Love  
Colossians 3: 1-17

**Introduction (Choose 1):**

1. The Book of Colossians takes us back to the basics.
  - What do you see as the benefit of reviewing the fundamentals of our faith?
  - Is it possible to mature beyond the need for them?
2. Have you, at some point, found yourself sidetracked away from the fundamentals into social issues, political issues and trying not to rock the boat with others?

**Reading (Scripture Reference):**

Read Colossians 3: 1-17

**Understanding (Choose 4-6):**

3. When you recognize the sin in your life, how likely are you to try and fix it yourself?
  - Has that been successful?
  - Do you try to adhere to rules and regulations or be more spiritual to make yourself more acceptable?
  - What is it that can actually change what's wrong with me?
4. Dave shared three points to challenge us to renew our thinking and take action. The first point is to Know Who You Are. What does that mean to you?
  - How can we identify ourselves in Christ?
5. What are some of the things people commonly use to identify themselves? It's a very easy thing to do. Do you recognize yourself in any of them?
6. The second point is to Take Off the Old. This makes me think of Eustace in *Prince Caspian*. Eustace had become a dragon and couldn't change back. When he truly desired to change, he tried to scrape off the ugly scales himself but they kept coming back. It took Aslan (Jesus) tearing away the old to make the change.
  - If only Jesus can really change us, what is our part in the change?
  - What might extreme measures look like?
7. Wouldn't you love to live in a place where the entrance sign to the town said,

“Welcome to a place where we don’t label people anymore.” How can we help to make this happen?

8. The third point is Put on the New. For some, this might be the most challenging out of the three. This is where we live what we say we believe. Where we put into action what we have addressed in the other two points.
  - Do you think this is a daily choice to make or should it now come naturally?
9. Dave states there are three aspects to this third point. To Put on the New is relational, counter-cultural and possible. Please discuss.
10. Have you removed your “Christians aren’t perfect; just forgiven!” bumper sticker?

**Application:**

11. At a recent retreat our group was challenged to “put off” the old way we, or others, have identified ourselves and give ourselves new names, or identities, based on who we are in Christ. What new name could you give yourself?
12. This week, dwell on knowing who you are in Christ, is Christ your life, what old needs to be taken off and what new you get to put on.

## Lectio Divina

1. **Opening Prayer:** Ask God for insight into His Word, for open hearts and minds, for hunger to know Him better, and for an attitude of learning from one another.
2. **Reading:** Have someone from your group read the passage aloud. It is best to print out a copy for each group member so they can read along, make notes, or go back as needed.
3. **Meditation:** Spend an *entire minute in complete silence*, contemplating what was just read. Feel free to re-read the passage quietly to yourself or jot down thoughts/highlight what stuck out to you.
4. **Sharing:** At the leader's signal, invite group members to share their insights for about 5 minutes.
5. **Repeat:** After the 5 minutes are over, repeat the process 2 more times using the same passage. Listen/read like you haven't heard this passage before. If there are longer moments of silence, the leader can prompt discussion with the following questions:
  1. What did you hear and what seems important?
  2. What is the Holy Spirit impressing on you?
  3. What does it make you think of from your life?

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup>Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. <sup>3</sup>For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup>When Christ, who is your<sup>a</sup> life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. **Colossians 3: 1-4**

<sup>5</sup>Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. <sup>6</sup>Because of these, the wrath of God is coming.<sup>(b)</sup> <sup>7</sup>You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. <sup>8</sup>But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. <sup>9</sup>Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices <sup>10</sup>and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. <sup>11</sup>Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.

**Colossians 3: 5-11**

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

<sup>15</sup>Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup>Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. <sup>17</sup>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. **Colossians 3:12-17**