

FBC Small-Group Materials

Week of November 20th
Dress for Success!

"Notice again, we are exhorted to stop doing certain things because we can stop. We are different; therefore, we can act differently. That is the appeal of the grace of God. You have "taken off your old self." A change has come. You are no longer what you once were. You have "put on the new self," which is growing and increasing in knowledge. The more you learn about this new life the more you will find you are able to say no to the old." Ray Stedman – Put On the New

For Small-Group Leaders

Dear Leaders,

If you are a home group leader please plan on attending one of our Home Group Leaders Huddles coming up on Nov. 29th and Dec. 1st. The meetings are identical, so pick the one that works best for your schedule. The meetings will be at the home of Scott and Kim Wiekling, 3210 Morro Bay Ave., 7:00-8:30 pm. We have lots to catch up on. Have a great small group!

Scott

Discussion Starters (choose one or both or make up your own):

- This one will require a willingness to be a little goofy. Come to your small group time dressed in two layers of clothes. For example, over your everyday clothes, wear some athletic clothes. When you read the passage, group members will figure out the meaning behind your appearance – we need to put off before we put on.
- Ask your group if anyone is willing to share something from their "Spiritual Life Notebook" regarding what God is teaching them. If group members don't yet have a notebook, have them share something that they are learning.

Discussion Questions:

1. Please read Colossians 3:5-14. We can't fully understand this passage without verses 1-4 of Colossians 3. How do Paul's comments in the first four verses help us to better understand 5-14?
2. Some have suggested that this list of things to "put off" can be divided into two categories: sex (verse 5) and speech (verse 8). Both our sexuality and our speech are created by God but when we misuse them they can have a tremendously negative impact upon our lives and others. What are the consequences of acting out in the ways described in verse 5, 8, and 9?
3. Why is it nearly impossible to change your speech and sexuality habits without changing your heart? According to Paul, how do we go about developing a change of heart (see Colossians. 3:1-15)?
4. What are we instructed to put on in verse 10? What does this mean in practical terms?
5. What does the first part of verse 12 tell us about our "family identity"? What does it mean that you were chosen by God and dearly loved by him?
6. We must be convinced of the first part of verse 12 before we can put on these attractive clothes described by Paul. Why is it essential that we become convinced of the first part of verse 12?

Group Reflection:

Ask everyone to look at this week's passage and think about whether God is leading them to take something off (from the list in verses 5, 8-9) OR is there something they need to put on (verses 12-14). Allow those who would like to share to do so.

Leaders Note: You may want to share this quote by Rick Warren, *"Let me be clear: If you're losing the battle against a persistent bad habit, an addiction, or a temptation, and you're stuck in a repeating cycle of good intention-failure-guilt, you will not get better on your own... Some temptations are only overcome with the help of a partner who prays for you, encourages you, and holds you accountable."*

Encourage your group members to get the help of a friend if they need help.

Putting into Practice – Ask each group member to write down one thing they would like to do this week to put what they have learned into practice. Close your time together by praying as a group, focusing upon Christ and the new creation he has made us into.