

DIGGING DEEPER

Identity | 3.11.18

This study guide is designed to help you dig deeper into the weekend message and apply it to your life. The questions below are meant to encourage thoughtful reflection, discussion, and prayer for you and your group. If you missed the message (or want to hear it again) go to fopc.org/sermon or download the Fair Oaks Church App.

PRAY [Pray for this study and for what is going on in each others lives.]

MESSAGE SUMMARY

This week at Fair Oaks Church we continued our series *Colossians*. We looked at how our identity is now in Jesus—in obedience to him in serving and working in the Kingdom. We're supposed to live now, like we're living in heaven!

KEY SCRIPTURE [Read aloud]

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

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

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

¹⁵Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.

¹⁶Let 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. ¹⁷And 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 3:1-17 (NIV)**

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Share something that stood out to you from this passage or the sermon this week?
2. What does Paul mean in verse 3 when he writes, "For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God"?
3. In verses 5-10, Paul writes that we are to put to death whatever belongs to our earthly nature. In what areas do you need prayer and support from your Life Group? How might your life improve if you were to trust God and put on your "new self"?
5. Read through 12-14 again. Take some time and share how you see these qualities working through the members of your Life Group. Pick one quality you want to focus on until Easter, and pick one relationship you want to bring forgiveness into.
6. We want to challenge you to memorize Colossians 3:1-17. Spend some time working on it as a group, and come up with way to hold one another accountable in this memorization.

PRAY [Close in prayer for one another.]

FALSE SELF-ASSESSMENT

The degree we are living out of our false or pretend self exists on a continuum ranging from mild to severe. We're all growing in this.

Here's a simple assessment to get an idea of where you fall on the continuum.

Check each one that describes you:

- I am reluctant to admit my weaknesses and flaws to others.
- I look for the approval of others more than I should.
- I am highly "offendable" and defensive when people criticize me.
- I often become harsh and impatient when things are moving too slowly or my expectations are not met.
- I say "yes" when I would rather say "no".
- I beat myself up when I make mistakes.
- I have difficulty speaking up when I disagree or prefer something different.
- I have a number of people I am struggling to forgive.
- My fears often cause me to play it safe "just in case".
- My body is more often in a state of tension and stress than relaxed.

1-3

You may be living out of your false self at times.

4-5

You probably have a moderate case of pretending to be somebody you are not.

6+

You want to receive this as a gentle wake up call to a deeper journey with Jesus!