

Series: Got Truth?

Title: Grasping God's Word and the Gospel

Text: Colossians 3:12-17

Breaking the Ice:

OPTION # 1 – New Year's Resolutions, Do you make them (why/why not)? If so, what is one of your resolutions?

OPTION # 2 – What is one New Year's Resolution you have actually kept? What helped you keep it?

Discussion/Study:

1. Read Colossians 3:12-17 – In Scripture we see that our relationships are the place where we actually demonstrate whether we grasp the truth of the gospel and God's Word. How have your relationships with others demonstrated that you did/did not understand truths that you thought you had already had a good handle on?
2. Read Colossians 3:12-17 – As we see from Paul's list of attributes that Christians are called to "put on", the fruit that the gospel calls us to bear is ultimately shown in the context of our relationships, i.e., "kindness, meekness, forgiveness, etc.". Look at Paul's list of things we are called to "put on." How do our relationships give us the opportunity to actually demonstrate these Christians characteristics? What has this looked like for you recently?
3. READ Colossians 3:12-17 – Who are the people/relationships that regularly help you to grow in and live out your grasp of the gospel?
4. Read Colossians 3:12-17 – There are two primary challenges we face that make our relationships "challenging." The first is that the gospel calls us together as a group of people who are "different" (see esp. v. 11). As a group of people whose belonging is based solely on our common need for Christ and our common provision of Christ, this also means the gospel in a sense throws us together as a diverse people (different cultures, ethnicities, backgrounds, ages, stages of life, preferences, etc.). How can these differences be experienced as "challenges" as we seek to operate with one another in the gospel? How does our successfully operating in the gospel despite those differences serve as a witness to the validity and power of the gospel?
5. Read Colossians 3:12-17 – In addition to our differences, the other major obstacle we face in our relationships is our sin. As fallen people in process of becoming more like Christ, we will inevitably sin against one another. When we do, Paul calls us to do the hard work of forgiveness and reconciliation. What makes pursuing forgiveness challenging in our

relationships? How does God's forgiveness of our sins actually drive us to forgive one another?

6. Read Colossians 3:12-17 – Our relationships are not only the place where we demonstrate our grasp of the gospel and God's Word, but it is also the place where we cultivate it. Paul tells us that it is the context of the church community that we cultivate our grasp of the gospel through "teaching... admonishing... singing... etc." With this mind, why is our participation in a local church community so critical? What do we miss in our spiritual development by missing out on regular participation in a church community?
7. Read Colossians 3:12-17 – Paul lists several means by which our grasp of the gospel is cultivated through our participation in a local church community. Some of these are the spoken word (i.e., "teaching" and "admonishing") while others are the "sung" word (i.e., singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs). How does singing the truths of God's Word impact you different than hearing it taught or read?