

Colossians 3:1-17

Discussion starters

- There is an old proverb that goes something like this: 'Christians can be so heavenly minded that they are of no earthly use'. What point do you think this proverb is making and do you agree with it?

Recap

Read Col 3:1-17.

- Does anyone have any questions, points of interest to raise, comments to make about any aspect of the passage?
- This passage roughly falls into 3 sections: vv 1-4, 5-11 and 12-17. Describe how each section is linked (ie. describe Paul's argument. Hint: observe Paul's use of 'since then' and 'therefore' in vv 1, 5 and 12).

The heavenly view, vv 1-4

These verses lay the foundation for all that Paul goes on to say in the rest of Colossians. They describe who we truly are in Christ and provide the motivation for Christian living.

- How should the heavenly view which Paul describes here shape the way we live as his followers in the world?

Off with the old, vv 5-11

- How accurately do vv 5-11 describe the 'old you' before you were in Christ?
- Paul tells the Colossians to put such things to death (v 5). How do we do that practically?
- In v 11 Paul speaks of the unity that is created between people of diverse backgrounds when they are renewed in Christ. Do you see that unity expressed in our own congregations at St Mark's & St David's?

On with the new, vv 12-17

- Forgiveness (v 14) is one of the virtues that Christians must clothe themselves with. What is the Christian's motivation for forgiving others?
- Why do you think forgiveness is such an important virtue for God's people to practice within the local church?
- *For personal reflection:* Are you currently harbouring any grievances against someone at church? Pause for a minute and come to God in quiet prayer, asking him for the ability to forgive.
- What place does love (v 14) have in the Christian life? (You might find it helpful to look up Matthew 22:34-40 and Galatians 5:13-15)
- Explore how Paul's command in v 17 touches upon the areas of *work* (ie. job, career, vocation) and *leisure* (ie. how you rest, relax etc).

Spend some time praying about some of the issues raised during your discussion.