

Some Reflections For The Week

Feel free to go through this material alone or with your midweek gatherings!



Colossians 3:12-16

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

We were made from relationship. Built for relationship. And so we gather for relationship. But relationship is hard. If left to our own devices, we would turn on one another, hurt one another and build up walls between each other. Time and time again we see this is the track record of humanity when it comes to relationships. But the Word of God shows us a different way. Christ shows us a different way. The way of love and selfless sacrifice. We're reminded often to love because it's not something we do naturally. Our flesh tells us to look after ourselves, but love tells us to look after others first. Scripture reminds us to "put on" the character of God and be different to how the world handles relationships. To be compassionate, kind, humble and patient. It's unnatural for sure. It's not easy at all as we often like to stay within our comfort zone, but to bear fruit as disciples of Jesus is to do precisely that; love those who we wouldn't otherwise love, talk to those who we wouldn't naturally gravitate towards and to serve and edify His Body even when it doesn't feel natural. In order to do this we must dive and lean into the Word of God for ourselves, practice gratitude and appreciation for one another regularly and in all our relationships allow the peace of Christ to have the final say.



This week we put all that into practice through a DBS session. It's often more challenging reading and reflecting Scripture for ourselves and with people we don't usually talk to, but it allows us an opportunity to practice what it means to be in relationship with one another in a way that allows us to grow as a Body that bears the image of Christ. He is all about relationship, and we seek to be the same.

1. What have you found hardest when it comes to relationship with other people?
2. What's one character trait of yours that you think makes it hard for people to love you?
3. Encourage one another with one thing that you have appreciated about that person as you've gotten to know them
4. How do you think the Lord is calling you to love your community? Is there one "unnatural" act of love that you think He's calling you to show someone here, at church, home or work?