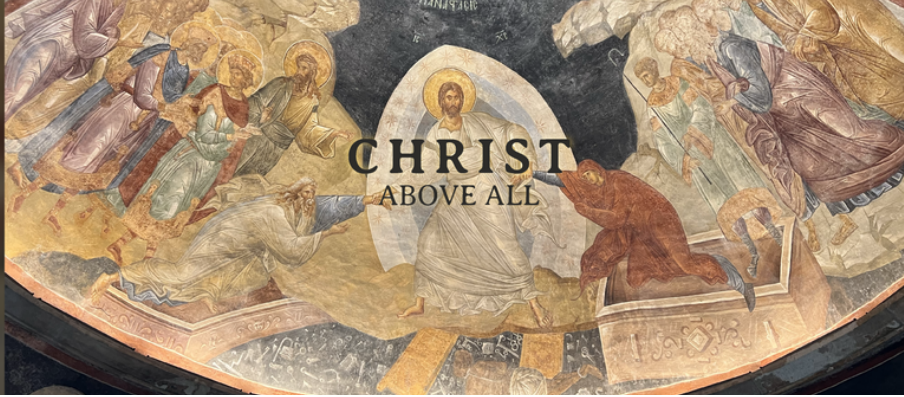




WEEK 3 - CLOTHED WITH LOVE

OVERVIEW

In the final week of the series, we will get very practical about how we as individuals can respond to God's call during this divisive time. As we will see, Paul sets a high bar for his readers in Colossae. First, to "set your minds on things above" – to live in such a way that our minds are laser focused on the things God cares about. Second, to "put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you," to be deeply intentional about the sin and idolatry within each of us which seeks to corrupt our trust in Christ. Finally, to "clothe yourself" in things like compassion, kindness, humility, and, most of all, love. Put simply, we each have a choice of how we respond in this cultural moment. We can choose what we think about, what we reject, and what we "wear" as we live out our faith. Let us all keep our eyes focused on Christ and his powerful resurrection. May we become people of love and mercy as we take his hand and follow him into the kingdom of God.

Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.

Colossians 3:12

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What stands out the most to you from this series so far?
2. Read Colossians 3:1-4.
 - a. What does it look like to *set your sights on the realities of heaven*, or on *things of heaven*?
 - b. Does it help you to recognize the verb tenses Paul uses? If so, how?
3. Barry encouraged us to allow the Spirit to call out one item from each of two lists in Colossians 3:5-9 and Colossians 3:10-15. If you are willing to share, what stood out to you from the lists? What is God's invitation to you?
4. Read Colossians 4:5-6.
 - a. What *opportunity* might you find in your life?
 - b. Give some examples of *gracious and attractive conversation*.
5. What kinds of things happen when we mix our allegiance to Christ with allegiance to the powers of this world?
6. What kinds of things happen when we reject the lies of the powers of this world and dedicate ourselves to Christ above all, living in his self-giving love?
7. Barry said, " Lift your eyes and find life so they can find it in you." What does this mean to you?
8. How do you start to live differently today, in order to better *know* Christ, *live like* Christ, and *love like* Christ?