

November 17th, 2019
Series: Spelling It Out
Part 1: The Basics

In reflecting on last Sunday's message, what stood out to you most?

At any point during the message did you find yourself thinking, "I've never thought about it that way".

Was there anything you wrestled with?

[NOTE TO LEADER: In regards to what someone may have wrestled with, it would be surprising if no one brought up at least two issues - the issue of wives submitting to their husbands and the issue of slavery.]

In the message, when I got to verse 18 I substituted the word "respect" for the word "submission" and there may be some who noticed that. "Submission" will be a main point of discussion a couple weeks from now when that particular section is covered on Sunday morning. However, if it becomes a point of discussion in your group this week, referencing Ephesians 5:21 may be helpful: "Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ."

The issue of slavery will also be discussed in detail in the weeks to come. HOWEVER, if the topic does come up, I believe it may be important to simply explain that slavery in 1st Century Rome was very different from the way slavery is perceived today. In first century Rome it was not based on race or ethnicity, and more importantly, slaves could (and often did) earn their freedom. In addition, willingly becoming someone's slave was a legitimate option for a person who was poor and had no family. Paul is in no way condoning slavery, especially as it is understood today, but is providing important instruction to those who found themselves in that situation.

These things will be discussed in greater detail in the weeks to come.]

Why did Jim title this series "Spelling It Out"?

Regarding topical preaching and teaching versus expository preaching and teaching...

- What are the advantages of topical preaching and teaching? What are the disadvantages?
- What are the advantages of expository preaching and teaching? What are the disadvantages?

READ the first half of Colossians 3 (verses 1-17). *[invite one or two people to read it aloud to the group]*. As you read it (or listen to it being read), think about which verse or verses grab your attention the most.

“Since you have been given a new life in Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God’s right hand. Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth. For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God. And when Christ, who is your life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory.

So put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you. Have nothing to do with sexual immorality, impurity, lust, and evil desires. Don’t be greedy, for a greedy person is an idolater, worshiping the things of this world. Because of these sins, the anger of God is coming. You used to do these things when your life was still part of this world. But now is the time to get rid of anger, rage, malicious behavior, slander, and dirty language.

Don’t lie to each other, for you have stripped off your old sinful nature and all its wicked deeds. Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him. In this new life, it doesn’t matter if you are a Jew or a Gentile, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbaric, uncivilized, slave, or free. Christ is all that matters, and he lives in all of us. Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.

Make allowance for each other’s faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.

Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony. And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful.

Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives. Teach and counsel each other with all the wisdom he gives. Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with thankful hearts.

And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father. *Colossians 3:1-17 (NLT)*

Which verses grabbed your attention the most? Why do you think they did?

Which verse do you think is most difficult to live out?

Which verse do you think comes most easily?

Was Paul redundant about anything? [*He mentions gratitude multiple times*]

Why do you think he mentioned gratitude and being thankful so many times?

What are other insights you have about what Paul wrote here?