

“Holy and Beloved!”

New Hope Community Church

October 14th, 2018

Colossians 3:12,13

Life Group Meeting

Colossians 3:10-13

QUESTIONS

A. Marvel At the Grace of God Choosing Us (12a)

1. God set His love upon us — we did **nothing** to deserve it
 - We were in the heart of God before we were **born**
‘He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him’ (Eph 1:4)
 - God **initiates** the awakening of our heart
‘No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day’ (Jn 6:44,65)
 - We were spiritually **dead** when He made us spiritually alive
‘Even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)’ (Eph 2:5)
 - Christ died for us when we were His **enemies**
‘while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son’ (Ro 5:10)
2. God has **transformed** us beyond what we could ever imagine
 - He considers us now as **holy**
‘Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.’ (1 Co 6:11)
 - He accepts us now as **beloved**
‘We have received the adoption as sons. Because we are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” Therefore we are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God’ (Ga 4:5-7)

B. Excel At the Process of God Changing Us (12b,13)

1. The new self, empowered by Jesus, has **divine** qualities
 - Hearts of compassion - genuine **empathy** & mercy for others
 - Kindness - the action that attends to the real **needs** of others
 - Humility - a refusal to exalt self as we keep our **focus** on God
 - Gentleness - the exercise of **strength** without harshness.
 - Patience - refusing to **force** your expectations on others
2. The new self, empowered by Jesus, **transforms** relationships
 - **Holding** each other up
 - **Extending** to each other grace
(1) Do you find **fault**? (2) Do as our **Lord** does — forgive!

Personal Response

1. Read Colossians 3:1-4 / 10-13
2. Say together by memory verses 1 & 2!!
3. How do we actually put on the new self and walk by the Spirit?
4. Ultimately, just exactly what should the new self look like?
5. God’s plan for the church is that in Christ, divisions between people based on things like race, nation, and social status, are torn down. Share testimony of how you have experienced this in your life.
6. Share the kind of response it creates in you to understand and believe that you are chosen of God, that you are holy and beloved?
7. We are declared holy, and yet in verse 12 we are commanded to “put on” attitudes and actions that are holy in nature. Why does God call us holy when we do not always act holy? What part of “being holy” is up to us?
8. Discuss the real challenge we often face in truly forgiving others. How is it possible to forgive someone whom has deeply hurt you, and whom you do not want to forgive?
9. Why is verse 13 essential for the health of any church?
10. Pray for each other, and pray for a true spirit of forgiveness to always rule in the hearts of God’s people at New Hope!