

“Sin demands to have a man by himself. It withdraws him from the community. The more isolated a person is, the more destructive will be the power of sin over him.”
—Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Who do you count on when things get tough? How would you describe their value to you?

Colossians 3:12-17

Our New Identity (Col. 3:12a)

Read Colossians 3:12a, and compare it to Exodus 19:6 and Deuteronomy 7:6-9.

What does the use of these phrases by Paul reveal about the Christian community?

Why would this have been important to the readers?

Demonstrated in Character (Col. 3:12b-13)

Read Colossians 3:12b-13, and identify the attributes Paul called for the Colossae believers to put on.

Use a Bible dictionary or commentary to write an expanded translation of verses 12b-13.

How are the attitudes in these verses related to the action Paul called for the believers to put off in verses 3:4-11?

Done in Community (Col. 3:14-17)

As you read Colossians 3:14-17, look for actions Paul called on the believers to carry out.

How does putting on love, submitting to Christ’s rule, and dwelling on the Word work together?

The actions connected to dwell require interaction; what does this interaction tell us about the role a small Bible study group should carry?

Do you think these actions Paul called on the Colossae believers to carry out are best done in a larger group or a smaller group? Explain.

Characteristics of a Healthy Small Bible Study Group

- Requires someone’s preparation to lead the group Bible study time
- Challenges all to participate in the group Bible study time
- Holds each other responsible for spiritual growth
- Seeks to include others not in a Bible study group
- Actively contacts group members and potential members
- Welcomes guests, treating them as valued people
- Seeks to discover needs so they can respond to them
- Incorporates everyone in the ministry of the group
- Builds relationship within the group (use fellowships if you can’t do it any other way)
- Develops and maintains a prayer ministry within the group
- Prepares others to do what they are currently doing (apprentices)
- Looks for ways of sending people out to start a new group, strengthen an existing group, or sponsor a new group

As you look at the list, identify the characteristics called for by Paul in Colossians 3.

What characteristics would you add? What characteristics would you delete? Why?

How well is your class or group doing these things?

What keeps your group from being this kind of group?

What needs to happen for your group to become this kind of group?

List steps you need to take to help your group become this kind of group.

Cover

Reconnect Sunday School logo

(Lesson Title:)

We Need Groups.....Healthy Groups