

## UNSTOPPABLE COMMUNITY

The Transformation for Adult LifeGroups

We practice community.

OCTOBER 14, 2018/OCTOBER 17, 2018

### TODAY'S TEXT

Text: *Colossians 3:1-17, 23-24*

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup> Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. <sup>3</sup> For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup> When Christ, who is your[a] life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. <sup>5</sup> Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. <sup>6</sup> Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. <sup>7</sup> You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. <sup>8</sup> But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. <sup>9</sup> Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices <sup>10</sup> and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. <sup>11</sup> Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all. <sup>12</sup> Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. <sup>13</sup> Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. <sup>14</sup> And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. <sup>15</sup> Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup> Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. <sup>17</sup> And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

<sup>23</sup> Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, <sup>24</sup> since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

### FIRST THOUGHTS

As we look at what God-designed community looks like, it's important to remember that we all also have God-given uniqueness. We are different from each other. These differences can be assets that lead us toward strength as a group or weakness. In these Scriptures today, God shows us how to move toward strength in community.

There are many personality tests online, and the following brief information was taken from one of these. It breaks down personality types in four colors. While this isn't detailed it gives general descriptions of four basic personality types. Look at these and determine which personality type most closely aligns with who you are. (You may have a primary and secondary.)

If you have a **GOLD** personality style:  
Your core values are **Tradition, Loyalty, and Family.**  
Your core needs are belonging through **Duty and Responsibility.**

If you have an **ORANGE** personality style:  
Your core values are **Resourcefulness and Skill**  
Your core needs are **Freedom and Action**

If you have a **GREEN** personality style:  
Your core values are **Knowledge and Innovation.**  
Your core needs are **Information and Being Competent.**

If you have a **BLUE** personality style:  
Your core values are **Authenticity and Harmony.**  
Your core needs are **People and Relationships.**

- Do people generally tend to favor and value their own personality types?
- How can this get in the way of agreement, unity, or productivity?
- Do we all need to be the same type to form a productive community?

### Watch the Video

### UNDERSTAND THE CONTEXT

Colossians was written during a time when dangerous teaching was threatening the church at Colossae, one that lessened Christ's role and undermined the new identity of believers "in Christ." Paul wrote to warn against this false teaching and to encourage the believers in their growth toward Christian maturity. He emphasizes Christ's authority over all evil powers.

Christians are united with the risen Christ, and therefore they share in his power and authority. Paul also encourages these believers to fight against sin, pursue holiness, and live as distinctively Christian households. There are many threats to us as individuals but also to us as a community. In Colossians 3, God offers encouragement and instruction toward becoming an unstoppable community.

## DISCUSS THE VIDEO

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### > Read Colossians 3:1-4 – SET YOUR HEART ON JESUS

- Why do we need to set our hearts AND minds on things above?

### > Read Colossians 3:5-11 – SET ASIDE ALL OBSTACLES

- Can you enter into a relationship with Jesus without partnering with Him in His work? If so, what are you missing out on when you aren't partnering with Jesus?
- What is the difference between saying "I decided to follow Jesus" and saying "I am following Jesus?"
- In verse 11, Paul makes the point there should be no racial or economic or national barriers between Christians. Where do these still exist in the church community? How can the church tear these down?

### > Read Colossians 3:12-17

### > Read Colossians 3:12 – MOVE TOWARD OTHERS (Building Community)

- When someone treats you this way (verse 12), you're likely drawn toward them, building a relationship that is a key step toward building community. With your focus, your schedule, the demands you face in life, and challenges, how well are you doing in genuinely expressing these virtues to others? Is there ever a time in which you are exempt from expressing these virtues to others?

### > Read Colossians 3:13 – GIVE OTHERS SPACE (Understanding Community)

### > Read Colossians 3:14 – NEVER NEGLECT LOVE (Valuing Community)

### > Read Colossians 3:15-17 – BE EMPOWERED BY JESUS (Establishing True Community)

### > Read Colossians 3:23-24

- Who are we as a community? Does Jesus define us, or does something else define us?
- How is God leading me to respond to Him? How can I better launch into relationship and partnership with Jesus? Are there obstacles in the way of doing that well?
- How am I doing in these elements of what a healthy community looks like? How is my community doing with this?

## Take 20 . . .

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Choose one or more of these Take 20 Challenges to complete this week:

- Who is someone you are in community with? Maybe it's someone in your LifeGroup, a mentor, an accountability partner, or a friend. Take 20 minutes this week and express your appreciation to them through a card, email, text, etc.
- Make a list of 20 people from Chets (start with those in your LifeGroup). For the next week, pray for 3 of them by name each day.
- Take 20 minutes to catch up with someone you haven't connected with in a while. Do it in a personal way—go to coffee, call them, etc.

## UPCOMING LESSONS

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Focus more on the idea of God's Unstoppable Truth by reading in your Personal Devotional Guide.

10/21 Unstoppable Generosity—We give generously.

10/28 Unstoppable Mission—We live beyond ourselves.

## READ THROUGH THE BIBLE

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**15th** – Nehemiah 13; Malachi 1, 2; Acts 4 | **16th** – Malachi 3-4; Psalm 148; Acts 5 | **17th** – Job 1-2; Acts 6-7 | **18th** – Job 3-4; Acts 8-9 | **19th** – Job 5; Psalm 108; Acts 10-11 | **20th** – Job 6-8; Acts 12 | **21st** – Job 9-10; Acts 13-14