

Soaring Oaks Presbyterian Church: Adult Bible Study Questions for 1/21/2007
Colossians 3:12 – 4:1

In our last lesson, Paul was exhorting us to develop and abide in godly character. An immediate consequence of this will be a different social character, the interpersonal relationships in the body of Christ will be affected. So, Paul now goes on to exhort us to godliness in our relationships with one another.

1. Read Colossians 3:12-14.

God's plan for his chosen ones includes the virtuous interactions noted in these verses. Beside each one in the list below, write something you have experienced as part of Soaring Oaks Church (if you have indeed had such experiences) that illustrates that good characteristic in action.

Compassion _____

Kindness _____

Humility _____

Meekness _____

Patience _____

Forbearance _____

Forgiveness _____

Love _____

2. Read Colossians 3:15-17.

Paul continues to lead us into God’s plan for his chosen ones as we live and work together in ministry for God and unto one another. For each of the four points below, write something of the blessing(s) you receive as (or would receive if) you practiced these things with Soaring Oaks Church. Of course, we would practice them along with you.

Colossians 3:15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. [For help, see John 14:27 and 16:33; Romans 5:1 and 12:18]

Colossians 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, ... [For help, see Acts 17:10-11; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 and 14:26-33]

Colossians 3:17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, ... [For help, um ... I can’t think of anything ... I know, see the Bible!]

Colossians 3:15-17 And be thankful. ... with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ... giving thanks to God the Father through [Jesus]. [For help, pray and give thanks.]

3. Read Colossians 3:18 – 4:1.

Paul now addresses some common specific relationships and calls the people of God to walk in them in lovely heavenly patterns rather than in the world’s corrupt patterns.

(a) Colossians 3:18 – Husband whose wife has committed to submit [in Christ] to you, how did affect your care for her as a husband? Wife, if you have committed to submit [in Christ] to your husband, how did change your heart disposition toward him?

(b) Colossians 3:19 – Husband who has committed [in Christ] to love and not be harsh with your wife, how did that change the way you talked with her? Wife, whose husband has committed [in Christ] to love you and not be harsh with you, how did that change the way you felt about him?

(c) Colossians 3:20 – Child [adult or not], how have you put this word into practice? If you never have committed to this, what would it cost you to do so now?

(d) Colossians 3:21 – In this passage, the word “provoke” includes these meanings: to be unnecessarily angry, unnecessarily argumentative, unnecessarily opposing. Parents, our children will sometimes respond badly to necessary training, to right discipline. How might “provoking” your children make it even harder to raise your children in the “nurture and admonition” (KJV) or the “training and instruction” (ESV) of the Lord?

(e) Colossians 3:22 – Employee [or as you serve or live under the authority of another], are you disobedient in private but obedient in public? How does Paul describe the approach (heart condition) we should have as God’s people in such relationships?

(f) Colossians 4:1 – Employer [or as you serve in authority over others], do you know yourself to be constrained by your heavenly Master as you carry out your role of master in present earthly situation? What are your greatest challenges when it comes to treating your charges justly and fairly?

(g) Colossians 3:23-34 – Taking these verses to relate to all the verses in this lesson (Colossians 3:12-22), how would “working heartily, as for the Lord,” “serving the Lord Christ,” and having an “inheritance” from him liberate you from old (fallen) ways of living that you might go forward in these godly ways?