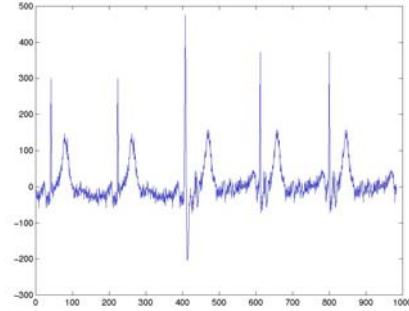


FOLLOW-THROUGH

“Life Together”

Sermon 6 in the Series “Alive!” based on Colossians
Small Group Discussion around the Sunday Message
February 11, 2007



Introduction

1. Read Colossians 3:12-4:1 aloud. What are the virtues that Paul tells the Colossians to put on? (vs. 3:12-3:17)
2. How are these virtues played out in our lives? (vs. 3:18-4:1)
3. Why are we able to put these virtues on our sinful selves?

Putting the Passage to Work

1. How do the following fit into your life? Are you going far enough?
 - a. Compassion is not pity
 - b. Kindness is not tolerance
 - c. Humility is not pride
 - d. Gentleness is not crassness
 - e. Patience is not irritation
2. Love is the one virtue that binds all the others together. Would it be possible (how) to have compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience without love? What would this look like?
3. Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 (the great love chapter). How does this open your eyes to a greater understanding of Colossians 3:12-4:1 and love for others? This fits between two chapters of spiritual gifts (1 Corinthians 12 and 14). Do you think Paul wrote the epistle this way for a reason? Why?
4. Read Ephesians 6:21-6:18. What new light does this shed on the Colossians passage? What does it show about our relationship with each other? Do we need to clothe ourselves in a new wardrobe (6:10-18)? How is the Armor of God different from the virtuous clothes of love, patience, gentleness, humility, kindness, and compassion? How do they complement each other?

Digging Deeper

1. As you look at your SHAPE and your spiritual gifts do you find that you are living your life in the clothes Christ has called you to wear? Do you live in compassion and love to your family, church, community and the world? People you know? People who seek to hurt you? Do you love and forgive as Christ loves and forgives?
2. How are people seeking to hurt you? Pray for each other. Pray for those who are out to get you.
3. Close in prayer.