

## RELATIONSHIPS IN 3s

### Guys, Girls, & Jesus

#### - Part 2: Interactions -

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#### *Colossians 3:9-17*

### 1. WHO WE ARE (vv. 9-12a)

#### A. New creatures (vv. 9-10)

“...you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its Creator.”

#### B. United creatures (v. 11)

“Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all” (cf. Galatians 3:28 – “neither male nor female”).

#### C. Unique creatures (v. 12a)

“Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved...”

DISCUSSION: What will keeping in mind Point 1 help us avoid? How will Point 1 affect the way we think about one another?

- It will help us be *humble* and *not arrogant* toward others.
- It will help us be *teachable* and *able to be ministered to* by others.
- It will help us *not compare ourselves* with others. This will be a temptation in small groups – you’ll see people’s weakness and strengths and will be tempted to feel inferior or superior to them. Point 1 helps us remember the common ground that Christ and His grace has given us. We’re all equal recipients of grace, equally complete in Christ, and thus equally empowered to minister grace to one another.
- It will help us *pursue unity*.

DISCUSSION: Where do we see sexism in the society, the church, our own hearts?

- Feminism, sexual discrimination, etc. Even God’s Word seems sexist in some passages (cf. I Timothy 2). How do men demean and use women, even in the church? How do women demean and use men, even in the church?
- Now, let’s bring it home...where do you struggle with sexism?
- [To pigeon-hole for a minute] Guys, how do you feel about how emotional, unstable, and seemingly irrational women can be? How did you feel about it yesterday when so-and-so [woman] was being very much a woman and frustrated you? What did you think to yourself? Was that sexist?
- [To pigeon-hole for a minute] Girls, how do you feel about how non-emotional, withdrawn, and seemingly irresponsible men can be? How did you feel about it yesterday when so-and-so [man] was being very much a man and frustrated you? What did you think to yourself? What that sexist?
- How Christian guys feel about Christian girls, and how Christian girls feel about Christian guys is at the heart of how Christian guys and Christian girls interact.

DISCUSSION: How will Point 1 affect the way we think about the opposite sex?

- Guys and girls are different, and they will be different in eternity, too. Because, that’s God’s design. So, girls being emotional, etc. isn’t a bad thing; and guys being stoic, etc. isn’t a bad thing.
- Guys and girls need to recognize who they are “in Christ” as equally new, united, and unique creatures, and they need to let that affect their interaction.
- Guys will be willing to take input and counsel from their sisters, and will shun the arrogance that says, “She can’t tell me what to do.” They will be humble to learn from the spirituality of their sisters, while also following God’s call to lovingly lead them. They won’t demean them nor use them, but will lovingly encourage and uplift and serve them. They will learn from their sisters how to “love God with all your heart.”
- Girls will be willing to learn from their brothers, recognizing their Christ-enabled insight even though they might not “have it all together.” They will not demean them nor use them, but will lovingly encourage and uplift and serve them. They will learn from their brothers how to “love God with all your mind.”

## 2. HOW TO LIVE (vv. 12b-17)

### A. Put on the character of Christ, our Head (vv. 12-14).

“Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, *compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another* and, if one has a complaint against another, *forgiving each other*; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on *love*, which binds everything together in perfect *harmony*.”

### B. Put on the peace of Christ, our Head (v. 15).

“And let the *peace of Christ* rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.”

### C. Put on the Word of Christ, our Head (v. 16).

“Let the *Word of Christ* dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with [grace] in your hearts to God.”

### D. Put on the honor of Christ, our Head (v. 17).

“And whatever you do, in word or deed, *do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus*, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”

DISCUSSION: How do we do Point 2? What will obedience to Point 2 look like? How do we know when we're doing Point 2? (cf. Titus 2:1-10)

## CONCLUSION

What are some practical implications of these considerations?

In our interactions, let us focus together on:

- *Conversation/Greeting/Fellowship* – This interaction may be only chance to make an impact on someone (cf. Isaiah 50:4). We should learn to reject the mindset of, “They're not like me...I'll leave them for someone else” or “They're too draining” or “That might be a little awkward, because I'm a girl and he's a guy (or visa versa)” (cf. James 2:1ff). We must bring Christ even into our casual interactions and learn to converse, greet, and fellowship across the gender lines. Within the body of Christ, girls are our sisters and guys are our brothers! And on a most basic level, we show that familial love in conversation and greeting.
- *Ministry* – We should strive to minister to each other and with each other. That's what a family does.
- *Learning & Growth* – We should be willing to grow with each other and learn about each other. We need the whole body (including all our brothers and sisters) to encourage us and teach us. Their gifts are supposed to be used for my Christlikeness (cf. I Peter 4:8-11). Sisters have much that they can teach brothers, and visa versa, for each was specifically created with unique perspectives and abilities.
- *Honor* – To avoid the “dangers” that close, personal guy/girl relationships can create, guys and girls must be created to keeping Christ preeminent in their interactions.
- *Dating* – We are wise to avoid a high school perspective of “She's talking to him; that must mean...” whenever a guy and girl are interacting. This is a family, and brothers and sisters are allowed to hang out. :) Additionally, many singles are (wisely) looking for a spouse. Where else will they find a good Christian spouse? A local church group like Single Focus affords awesome opportunities for brothers and sisters to interact, opportunities that God can use to establish marital partnerships. If the guys and girls in such a group are not interacting in the ways mentioned above, they are missing out on encouragement that God wants to give and they may be missing out on relationships that God wants to begin.