



This week we look at Paul who could not contain himself from announcing the availability of the kingdom of God. This announcement was a new basis for social solidarity and the creation of diverse communities centered around allegiance to King Jesus.

REFLECT (10 Minutes)

Was there anything new or interesting that grabbed you from the teaching Sunday?

DIG DEEPER (20-30 Minutes)

Read Read Colossians 3:10 and discuss what you think this verse means.

Now read Col. 3:10 in the context of Colossians 3:1-17. (Read the whole thing aloud with the group.) What do you notice? Does anything about this passage of scripture stand out to you? What excites you about this aspect of the good news? Or, in what ways does it *challenge* some of your presuppositions about God's good news?

Paul regularly talks about putting on the new humanity (or the new self)... Spend some time discussing how Jesus was the truly human one... (i.e. think and share examples from his life where he showed us what this looks like.) Consider how he displays this in both his *life* and in his *death*.

What are some ways you are hoping to experience this reality of the "new humanity" in greater measure?

How does this idea shift the way you think about mission? Or, what implications do you think this idea has on how we do mission as individuals? Or, corporately as a church?

Read Galatians 3:26-28 and 1 Cor. 10:16-17. We often recognize that the gospel provides a restored relationship between God and humanity. We don't often talk about how the good news restores relationships between diverse groups of people. Yet, Paul points this out in and around both baptism and communion. Where or how have you witnessed this type of multi-ethnic reconciliation in and through the gospel?

RESPOND (10-15 Minutes)

Where is a place in your life that God is inviting you to be an agent of reconciliation? You are the new humanity in and through whom Christ is reconciling the world.

PRAY (10 Minutes)

Spend some time praying for our Global Missionaries in the Field Notes journal. Then take a bit of time to pray for one another in specific areas where you are seeking to reconcile what is broken around you.

LEADER NOTES

These questions are a guide; feel free to use/exclude ones as people may have already answered the question or talked about the theme OR if your group takes a long time to tackle one particular theme it's ok to skip over questions in the interest of time/focus.