

**ChristChurch London Life Group Discussion Outline – 06/01/08**  
**Change Your Clothes**  
**Rhys Scott**

Summary:

**Colossians 3: 1-17**

Paul writes the letter of Colossians to a young church, which was planted by Epaphroditus, one of Paul's team. Paul has heard about how well they're doing in faith and love, and writes to strengthen and equip them.

In chapter 3 Paul encourages them to live as people who have been resurrected with Christ. They need to go through a mindset change. In one sense, they're like orphans who suddenly discover that they're princes, children of the King. Paul encourages them first to think like princes and then to begin to act like princes.

The illustration he uses is that of changing clothes. We need to change our old clothes of sinful behaviour for new clothes of love, patience, kindness, clothes appropriate for those who have been resurrected with Christ.

Questions for the group:

1. What do you think are the implications of the fact that we have been raised to life with Christ?
2. Paul stresses that we should "set our minds" on the things above. Why is it important that we change our thinking before we change our behaviour?
3. Paul zones in on two aspects of behaviour that have consequences not just for ourselves, but for the whole church community. The first aspect is that of sexual sin, which he commands us to put to death. How can we live lives that are pure in the context of a city that is sex-mad?
4. The second thing Paul zones in on is the words we speak. Words have tremendous power to hurt, and to divide a community. He tells us that we should rid ourselves of anger, rage, malice, slander and filthy language. We want to be a people who are quick to resolve conflict, who honour one another before God and forgive one another quickly. In what ways should we seek to resolve conflict?
5. We want to build a safe community in ChristChurch where people can be real, belong, and work through the issues that we all have from time to time. This means building a community free of gossip and grumbling. How can we rid ourselves of these things?

Paul urges the Colossians to "put on love". As a Life Group, are there some practical ways in which you can "put on love" and live lives of love and compassion in our community?