

Week Beginning: 13<sup>th</sup> August, 2017

Worship Series: #2 in series



living sharing growing

### Theme Verse

"... lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God."

"...whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father."

Ephesians 4:1 & Colossians 3:17 John 1:16

### Remember This Week

The Church's greatest witness happens when the grace that strips all the masks away reveals in ordinary people, called by God into his family, Jesus' love in living colour.



**All your works praise you, Lord;  
your faithful people extol you.  
They tell of the glory of your kingdom  
and speak of your might,  
so that all people may know of your mighty acts  
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.  
Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,  
and your dominion endures through all generations**

Psalms 145:10-13

Holy Spirit move all in and take over our lives. Draw us more deeply into the heart of the Father and the life of the Son. Work through us, your church, so the world can see you in us and come to trust your saving love. Bless us as we delve deeper into your Word today that we may proudly wear the love of Jesus in living colour as we daily go all in to show the world that we are living for the glory of the Father who has immersed us in the grace of the Son. We pray in his name. Amen



1. *Highs and lows for the week.*
2. *Accountability time. How did you go with your living purposefully from last time?*
3. *In buying clothes, are you a name-brand buyer? A bargain hunter? Partner conscious? Quality conscious? Style conscious? (Or could you care less what others think?)*
4. *If you follow a sports team, who do you support and what items of clothing do you have that show you are all in to that team?*

*They are passionate, vocal, and committed. Enthusiastic about their team, football supporters of any code dress in their team colours, sometimes to extreme levels to show that they are all in. They don't want to leave anyone in any doubt about which team they support. What would it look like if Christians or Church people showed the same passion? For God calls us to dress in our team colours too, leaving no doubt that we are all in, immersed in grace, ready to be his ambassadors to the world. So let's get dressed in our Sunday best and let the world see what grace immersed churches really look like.*

Read Ephesians 4:1-7

5. *Do you tend to be more social, or more reserved? Do you recharge your batteries by being with other people, or by being alone?*
6. *Paul says, '...live a life worthy of the calling you have received.' What is that calling?*
7. *What does it mean to bear with one another in love? Give some examples.*





8. This passage begins with a call for Christians to “make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace” (3). What do you think “every effort” looks like?

In Ephesians 1-3, Paul has built a foundation of which he now calls the Ephesians to build upon - it's a foundation of grace. He is now calling them to “live out” that grace through revealing Christ in their lives as they:

- \* live completely humble and gentle lives
- \* are patient, bearing with one another
- \* Keep the unity at all cost through peace
- \* Remember grace has been given to each
- \* Recognize we are each gifted differently

9. From this list above which one(s) do you struggle with the most and how would you ask God to grow you?

Read Colossians 3:12-17

10. What is your favourite item of clothing and why?

The entire letter of Colossians is written to a group of people, the Church, not an individual. Paul gives us clear direction on how we should treat each other and live within our church community as a witness to the grace relationship that God has given us in his Son Jesus.

11. What is the most significant verse for you from Colossians 3:12-17?

12. In what ways do you live like you are chosen by God, holy, and deeply loved? If not, what would that look like in your life if you believed that?

13. How does wearing “Christ’s clothing” affect the way you live your daily life?

14. The New Living Translation says in verse 13: **Make allowance for each other’s faults, and forgive anyone who offends you.** What do you think it means to make allowances for each other and what does it look like in the context of the Church?

In verse 15, Paul says to let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts. The word “rule” is the same word that was used in Greek Olympic sports to refer to the role an umpire would take: the one who would make a ruling over what was in bounds and had been done according to the rules of the game. In the same way, the peace of Christ should be the umpire in our hearts, arbitrating what is good and what is out of bounds.

15. Where have you seen the ‘peace of Christ’ umpiring in your relationship with others in the Church in the last six months?



Researcher and futurist Mark McCrindle has recently analysed the NCLS, the ABS Census results along with further research of his own company about people’s attitude to the Church and Christianity in Australia today. Some of his findings include:

- \* the number one attractor to spirituality and religion at 16% was seeing people live out a genuine faith
- \* 24% (1 in 4) have an open attitude to Christianity and 12% (1 in 8) are neutral to it.

That provides a wonderful opportunity; 3 in 8 people that you meet each day will be open or neutral to the good news of Jesus if they can see a compelling reason in your life. When all is stripped away, grace still shines through with its love and hope.

16. How can we as a Church better wear the clothes of his love and grace for the sake of reaching the community? What will you do to help you proudly wear Christ’s colours?

17. How willing would you be to gift the first 5 minutes of your time after worship to talk to someone new or who you don’t well, to immerse them in Christ’s grace? What is preventing you doing that? Pray for God’s strength to help you bring grace upon grace in their lives.



- Praise God for making you his child. Thank Jesus for his church where you regularly receive His grace and are led toward living like him. Ask the Holy Spirit to strengthen you daily to be all in to Jesus with every single breath.
- Pray for wisdom so that we might know how to speak as a whole Church into the lives of the community.
- Pray that we might put on the clothes of grace and wear them proudly as a witness to the Gospel in the world in which our communities, churches and homes are in.



Turn to the person next to you and make the sign of the cross on the palm of their hand or forehead as you say:  
*Name, may the grace of Christ in you, flow through you. Amen.*