



CONNECT GROUP NOTES

Sunday 12.11.2023

“Clothed in Compassion”

Preacher

Ps. Josh Plumb

Scripture

“Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. 13 Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. 14 And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace.”

Colossians 3:12-15a

Thought

Christmas is coming, and Christmas is often charged with emotions. Emotions of the pace of the season, of the tensions of family, or maybe the tension of our own expectations of what life should be like. Pieces of our lives which we thought we would have in line right now, but they’re still messy or disordered. On top of all of this, we have the tension of feeling the need to show care toward others, of present finding and gift giving.

What if the greatest gift we brought to those in our world was not a gift, but ourselves; clothed in compassion, kindness, gentleness, self control, forgiveness and love? Not as a duty or a task, but as a life-long journey of learning, from a position of being Chosen by a loving God who will never leave us or forsake us. He is our good shepherd who provides all of our



needs, and with joy and expectation, we look to the Holy Spirit to help us on this journey or transformation.

What would it look like to become a person who shows compassion? Compassion is the awareness of pain around us, and being moved to act. And so we demystify compassion from a great and lofty act reserved only for those who are resourced to provide it, to little movements of action. It's the things we hold in our hands in the little moments, the small acts that make a difference in someone's life.

It's asking ourselves the question; What do I have in my hand, what resource, what person, what capacity to gift to this person in this moment that may help a little?

And so as we approach this Christmas season, let us lay aside the weight of expectation, and rather lean on the Holy Spirit, inviting and allowing Him to change us, piece by piece, into those who embody compassion.

May we lift our heads from the day to day grind just long enough to see those around us, to allow the spirit to move our hearts in compassion and to be open to God's direction in how we can respond in small acts.

Discussion Points

1. How has God shown His compassion in my life?
2. What does biblical compassion look like? How did Jesus exemplify this?
3. This week, is there something I (or maybe together with a group) can do to show compassion to someone in a tangible way?

Personal application + Prayer

Dear Lord,



Your heart is a heart of compassion for me. Thank you for that. May I be even more aware of your beauty and grace towards me this week. Open my eyes to the needs of those around me, and grant me the awareness of how I can be a blessing in small ways and small moments.

Amen.