

SG

Your group matters.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

- Icebreaker -

If you could be the editor of a magazine (hardcopy or digital), which one would it be and why?

1. Read [Colossians 3:1-4](#) in The Message paraphrase. This passage pictures a Christ-follower whose eyes are “focused down”, absorbed with his/her old “dead” life as opposed to being “focused up” on Jesus. What does it look like when you become “absorbed with the things right in front of you” and what effects can it have?
2. One thing Pastor Tom suggests that will help shift our focus up is to clean out our “closet” of the “tattered and ill-fitting attitudes and behaviors that genuine Jesus followers need to discard.” Which of these “garments” have been the most difficult for you to discard?
3. In [Colossians 3:5](#), Paul indicates that sexual sin extends far beyond promiscuity and includes impure sexual practices and attitudes of all kinds. Since our culture aggressively promotes such impurity, what active measures do you or could you take to avoid having the clothing of your soul tattered and soiled by this corruption?
4. In [Colossians 3:6-9](#) Paul transitions to the worn-out threads of social sins. Consider the list of behaviors and how you have seen them damage relationships with God and others. Which of these things are still taking up room in your closet and what will you do about it?
5. Pastor Tom made it clear that whether sexual or social, these sins have the same result: they destroy relationships. So, if you can be rid of them – like old clothes in a closet – then why wouldn’t you? Submit to Jesus and allow Him to make room for His new wardrobe. ([Colossians 3:1, 3](#))

Day One: [Psalm 62](#)

Day Two: [Proverbs 31](#)

Day Three: [1 Samuel 13](#)

Day Four: [Isaiah 62](#)

Day Five: [Acts 6](#)

This Personal Guide has been adapted from Professor Grant Horner’s Bible Reading System.

PERSONAL GUIDE



RIVERSIDE CHURCH



FOCUS UP

“FOCUSING IN” (PART 1)

Feb 4, 2024 Pastor Tom Lundeen

MYRC.CHURCH



FOCUS UP

MESSAGE NOTES

"FOCUSING IN" (Part 1)

Pastor Tom Lundeen

...what we're focused on impacts _____ about our lives personally, internally, spiritually, emotionally, and relationally.

Note [Colossians 3:1-4](#)

So what are the _____ Jesus followers wearing?
First of all:

1. There's an Old Wardrobe to _____

Note again [Colossians 3:1-4](#)

Paul uses the imagery of clothing to help us see that following Jesus means an entire wardrobe _____.

Jesus...knows there are old, tattered and _____ attitudes and behaviors that genuine Jesus followers need to discard.

And the power to do this isn't self-_____ and self-_____... but it's really possible because Jesus has done it all for us.

The _____ wardrobe Jesus followers are to discard are primarily divided into two sections:

- A. _____ sins (note [Colossians 3:5](#)) - *sexual immorality* = _____ = _____ sexual intercourse (any kind of sexual intercourse outside of God's _____ for one man/one woman committed/covenant marriage relationship); *impurity* (not just sexual intercourse outside of God's design of one man/one woman committed/covenant marriage, but other sexual _____ not involving a husband-wife relationship); *lust/passion* = _____ = uncontrolled illegitimate desire (note [Matthew 5:21-22, 27-28](#); [Titus 3:3a](#)); *evil desires* = all forms of _____; *greed* = *the desire to have more than _____ the rights of others*. It's the _____ and ruthless assumption that all other

persons and things exist for one's own benefit (Caird)...it becomes _____ because greed puts self-interest for illicit/immoral desires, things, and even people, in the place of God. We serve an idol to get what we want rather than embrace and follow God's _____.

- B. _____ sins (note [Colossians 3:6-9](#)) - *anger* (settled attitude...an *angry person* _____); *rage* (wrath/passionate _____/short fuse); *malicious behavior* (the desire to inflict _____ with words/gossip); *slander* (abusive words to _____ the good name/reputation of someone); *filthy language* (not only obscenities, but also _____ and suggestive expressions [coarse humor] which cover underlying impurity); *lying* = includes deliberate untruths, half-truths (that create a false impression/narrative), and _____ (distorts reality and paints a false picture).

Am I focused UP?

- What's the common _____?
- This old, tattered and useless wardrobe impacts all our _____ (with God and others).
- You can only get rid of this old wardrobe by first saying 'YES!' to Jesus as Lord (note [Colossians 3:1, 3](#)).
- And if we have said 'YES!' to Jesus as Lord, what rotten, useless _____ are we still hanging on to/hiding in our closets?

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey! Let us know, too, and fill out our connect card (digital* or hard copy). *MYRC.LINK/CONNECT or text **riverside** to **94000**



SMALL GROUP
guide on the back



FOCUS UP

MESSAGE NOTES

"FOCUSING IN" (Part 1)

Pastor Tom Lundeen

...what we're focused on impacts everything about our lives personally, internally, spiritually, emotionally, and relationally.

Note [Colossians 3:1-4](#)

So, what are the best-dressed Jesus followers wearing?

First of all:

1. There's an Old Wardrobe to Discard

Note again [Colossians 3:1-4](#)

Paul uses the imagery of clothing to help us see that following Jesus means an entire wardrobe overhaul.

Jesus...knows there are old, tattered and ill-fitting attitudes and behaviors that genuine Jesus followers need to discard.

And the power to do this isn't self-will and self-effort...but it's really possible because Jesus has done it all for us.

The old wardrobe Jesus followers are to discard are primarily divided into two sections:

- A. Sexual sins (note [Colossians 3:5](#)) - *sexual immorality* = porneia = illicit sexual intercourse (any kind of sexual intercourse outside of God's design for one man/one woman committed/covenant marriage relationship); *impurity* (not just sexual intercourse outside of God's design of one man/one woman committed/covenant marriage, but other sexual practices not involving a husband-wife relationship); *lust/passion* = pathos = uncontrolled illegitimate desire (note [Matthew 5:21-22, 27-28](#); [Titus 3:3a](#)); *evil desires* = all forms of perversion; *greed* = *the desire to have more that disregards the rights of others*. It's the arrogant and ruthless assumption that all other persons and things exist for one's own benefit (Caird)...it becomes idolatry because greed puts self-

interest for illicit/immoral desires, things, and even people, in the place of God. We serve an idol to get what we want rather than embrace and follow God's truth.

- B. Social sins (note [Colossians 3:6-9](#)) - *anger* (settled attitude...an *angry person demeanor*); *rage* (wrath/passionate outburst/short fuse); *malicious behavior* (the desire to inflict injury with words/gossip); *slander* (abusive words to tear down the good name/reputation of someone); *filthy language* (not only obscenities, but also innuendos and suggestive expressions [coarse humor] which cover underlying impurity); *lying* = includes deliberate untruths, half-truths (that create a false impression/narrative), and exaggeration (distorts reality and paints a false picture).

Am I focused UP?

- What's the common denominator?
- This old, tattered and useless wardrobe impacts all our relationships (with God and others).
- You can only get rid of this old wardrobe by first saying 'YES!' to Jesus as Lord (note [Colossians 3:1, 3](#)).
- And if we have said 'YES!' to Jesus as Lord, what rotten, useless clothing are we still hanging on to/hiding in our closets?

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey! Let us know, too, and fill out our connect card (digital* or hard copy). *MYRC.LINK/CONNECT or text **riverside** to **94000**



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