### LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

GET YOUR ACT TOGETHER: THE JOY OF CHRISTIAN UNITY

Philippians 2:1-11

Dr. Mark Strauss - June 1, 2014

Dr. Strauss challenged us to follow God's agenda for unity in the church:

"Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace."

Ephesians 4:3 (NIV)

The way to accomplish this is to agree on the essentials (Phil 2:1-2) and follow Jesus' example (Phil 2:5-11) by humbly serving one another in love (Phil 2:3-4).

We will never agree on everything, but I don't really care.

What I want to know: Do you love Jesus Christ? Is your passion to know him and to make him known?

Dr. Mark Strauss

## **M**EMORY **V**ERSE

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

(Philippians 2:3-4)

### **DISCUSSION STARTERS**

What is the most selfish thing that you've done in the past month?

## STUDY QUESTIONS

In Colossians 3, the Apostle Paul uses an analogy of taking off the filthy rags of our old life and putting on the new, clean clothing of our new life in Christ.

#### → Read Colossians 3:12-13

How does Paul describe those he is writing to (12a)?



- Imagine that you are having a face to face conversation with the apostle how does it make you feel to be addressed in this way?
- What does it mean to "put on" or "clothe yourselves"?
- Describe & discuss each of the character qualities he says we are to "put on":
  - Compassionate hearts:
  - Kindness:
  - o Humility:
  - Meekness:
  - Patience:
- How should Christians "bear with one another?" What is a recent example where you've had to "bear" with someone? (or someone had to "bear" with you!)
- Why is forgiveness important to relationships with others?
- Why is Jesus' forgiveness the basis for the command for us to forgive others?

#### → Read Colossians 3:14-15

- What does it look like to "put on love?"
- What does it look like for the peace of Christ to rule in your life? (your home, marriage, workplace, etc.)
- What does thankfulness have to do with these character qualities & the new life in Christ?

#### → Read Colossians 3:16-17

- How should these verses be lived out in your LIFE Group? In your home?
- What changes do I need to make in my life to put this into practice?



# GROUP ACTIVITY

Personal re	flection,	then	discuss	as	а	grou	p:
-------------	-----------	------	---------	----	---	------	----

- What areas of my life aren't reflecting the description given in Colossians 3:12-17?
- One thing I will begin doing this week is...
- One thing I will stop doing this week is...
- Who do I need to forgive?
- Who do I need to ask to forgive me?

Notes:			

