

## The Separation of Church and Hate

### Week Two – Discussion Guide

Welcome to week two of Separation of Church & Hate. We're spending time trying to learn how to better navigate the increased polarization we see around us, especially in the realm of politics. We're looking to Jesus and asking, "As your follower, how should we engage and behave?"

If you missed week one, Remember Your Identity, check it out on [CCC's YouTube Page](#).

### Getting Started

Dave started out this week telling a story about identity from the movie, *Miracle*. What are your top two movies of all time? What is your favorite sports movie?

### What Does the Bible Say?

Paul wrote 13 letters of the New Testament, and they all have a similar structure. Paul zooms out and roots himself in some big truths about God and what he's done for us, and then he applies that truth to how we should live, treat each other, and go about living in God's world God's way.

Paul writes these words to the church in Colossi, in part, because the church was struggling with some deep-seated divisions.

Have someone from your group, or a few folks, read Colossians 3:1-15.

**3** Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. **2** Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. **3** For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. **4** When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

**5** Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. **6** Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. **7** You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. **8** But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. **9** Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices **10** and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. **11** Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.

**12** 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. And be thankful.

- 1) Paul names some of the divisions these people were experiencing. What do you know about the divide between the folks Paul names in verse 11?
- 2) In the midst of these entrenched categories, viewpoints, tension, and divides, how does Paul instruct them to treat one another?
  - What are we to put to death and get rid of? What are we to clothe ourselves with and put on?
  - What reasons does Paul give for why we should behave this way?
- 3) Share which of this list is the most difficult for you to put to death or get rid of? Which is a struggle to clothe yourself with or put on?
- 4) Paul roots his instruction in the idea that Christians have been raised with Christ, and that we are God's people. What are one or two ways you can root yourself in these truths daily? How can your group help you?

One line from this week's message worth discussing. "You can't treat people like garbage and expect them to take your faith in Jesus seriously." What is your response to this idea?

## **Righteous Anger**

- 1) What did you learn about God's anger in this week's message?
- 2) James (Jesus' brother) says, "My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires." James 1:19-20
  - On a scale of 1-10, how are you doing at this?
  - Why do you think human anger doesn't lead to what God desires for us?

## **Things to Ponder**

What do I need to do to follow Paul's instructions about putting to death, getting rid of, clothing myself and putting on? Am I willing to make a commitment with my group about pursuing this?

If people's anger doesn't lead to what God desires for us, am I willing to question my own experience and emotions of anger instead of trusting them?

(Memorizing James 1:19-20 is one way we can start taking steps to honor God with our anger.)