

Saturday & Sunday, November 4 & 5, 2017 - "Radical Christianity" - Doug Kempton

Key Passages: Colossians 3:18-4:1, Philippians 2:2-4, Ephesians 6:2-3, Philemon

- Feel free to read the passage(s) out loud as a group
- Allow the group to share freely about what stood out to them from the passage or from Sunday's message

Main Ideas

- Elements to good biblical interpretation: Literary Context & Cultural context
 - The whole Bible and what is said just prior or just after a passage
 - what it meant → what it means
 - Same exact words can mean different things depending on the context (all state commercial)
 - Colossians was written to a CERTAIN people, at a CERTAIN time, under CERTAIN circumstances
- Colossians 3:16-4:1
 - Take off the the old self and put on the new self
 - The hardest place to put on the new self is at home...those are the relationships that Paul addresses
 - Paul is pressing against societal norms...this is a RADICAL passage
 - He talks about BOTH sides of three different relationships: Husbands & Wives, Parents & Children, Masters & Slaves
- Husbands & Wives
 - Husbands love your wives (submit to her) and prefer her needs over your own (Philippians 2:2-4)
 - Wives submit to your husbands
 - If you begin to put the focus on the other → you're missing the point
 - We begin by asking how we can bring health to the relationship
- Parents & Children
 - Children obey. Parents don't provoke
 - Provoke = embitter, aggravate, exasperate, make resentful, anger (TO STIR ANGER)
 - How to parent and not exasperate your kids
 - 1) Always parent in the fruit of the spirit
 - 2) Allow your child to be who they are
 - 3) Treat your kids w/ the same level of Grace and love that God treats you
- Masters and Slaves
 - The Bible DOES NOT endorse slavery
 - Paul is writing about how to live at peace in a broken system\
 - Why didn't Paul just say "set them free" or "start a revolt" → they would have completely dismissed it
 - v24-25 would have rocked their worlds → God sees you, he cares, DIGNITY as a person
 - Masters called to treat justly/fairly (love them AS PEOPLE) → This would have been RADICAL
- Colossians delivered by Onesimus who was a slave of Philemon
 - Paul urges Philemon to love him AS A BROTHER
 - In the flesh and in the Lord = not just a concept but in reality
 - Scholars believe that the first bishop of church at Ephesus was Onesimus
- Put on the new self and do it where it is hardest...at home
- Imagine how the world would change if we all did this

Questions (Feel free to use all of these, some of these, or none of these)

1. Where is God calling you to put on your new self?
2. How is God calling you to put on your new self specifically at home?
3. Is there one relationship (husband & wives, parents & children, masters & slaves) that God is challenging you to think about or pay attention to? What is God asking you to do or to think about?
4. For parents: Which step to "not exasperating your children" stands out to you the most and why?
5. What has God taught you about submitting to others?
6. What is God inviting you into as a result of this passage or message?

****15 Minutes with God Reading Plan-**

Mon: 1 Peter 1 Tues: 1 Peter 2 Wed: 1 Peter 3 Thurs: 1 Peter 4 Fri: 1 Peter 5