



Sunday 16 July
The real you
Colossians 3:1—14

Set your minds and hearts on things above (v.1-2)

Under the circumstances?

v.3 *“Your life is now hidden with Christ in God”*

Not who we were made to be:

v.5 “*sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed*”

v.8 “*anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language*”

In your anger do not hit ‘send’ or post to Facebook!

“Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. The tongue also is a fire...”
(James 3:5-6)

v.9-11 “*put on the new self... in the image of its creator*”

New clothes to wear – God’s designer label.

v.12 *“clothe yourselves...”*

Compassion, Kindness, Humility, Gentleness, Patience = Putting others first.

v.13 *“bear with each other and forgive...”*

v.14 *“over all these virtues put on love”*

“By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another” (John 13:35)

Conversation starter:

What’s the worst outfit or item of clothing you’ve ever worn?



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Growth group questions

You will find it helpful to have heard the talk at: <http://leightonbaptists.org.uk/media-links/current-teaching/>. *Some of these questions are personal and others are more general. Feel free to pick and choose which questions your group will find most helpful.*

1. Read v.1-4. How easy is it to set your hearts and minds on things above rather than on earthly things?
 2. Do you think it is okay to justify actions based on the circumstances?
 3. Have you ever felt a 'gap' between how you are perceived and the 'real' you? Why might that be? How might v.4 be a source of encouragement?
 4. Contrast Jesus being 'seated' at the right hand of God with Acts 7:54-60. How might this encourage us to follow Jesus no matter what?
 5. Read v.5-6. Why are the things in this list classed as idolatry?
 6. Read v.7-8 and compare with James 3:5-10. If "no *man* can tame the tongue" what hope is there for us?
 7. How can Christians stand out in their use of social media like Facebook?
 8. Read v.9-11. Are you aware of having 'put off the old self' and 'put on the new self' since becoming a Christian? Try to share some examples.
 9. Read v.11-14. Why might we find it hard to continue putting others first?
 10. Can you think of a time someone has shown you any of the 'virtues' listed? What, if any, impact did it have on you?
 11. Which of these virtues or 'clothes' do you find it most difficult to put on?
- Pray, with thanksgiving, for each other and the work God is doing in your lives.