**Homework: Colossians Week 3 – Colossians 3:18-4:1**

Paul moves into the area of relationships in this section of Colossians. We can use the phrase “one anothering” here. How are you doing at “one anothering” in your marriage? As a son or daughter? As a parent? As an employee? As a boss? Be honest with yourself.

Now, read Colossians 3:12-14. If you “put on” the heart that Paul describes and put on love, would those relationships change? Would you do better at “one anothering”?

Read Colossians 3:18-4:1 and read Ephesians 5:18-6:9. What are some of the parallels between these two sections of scripture? Ephesians emphasizes being filled with the Spirit while Colossians emphasizes being filled with the Word. List some of the traits that both of these letters list as the outcome of being filled with the Spirit and the Word. Are these things active and growing in your life?

As you read Colossians 3:18-4:1, what is the motivation for all of these exhortations Paul give? Who is the one that we are seeking to please?

Colossians 3 moves from the internal to external. It moves from heart to relationships, from self to others. Do you tend to seek behavior changes or heart changes? Who is walking with you in addressing your heart? Who do you share your heart with and are they a catalyst for putting on the right heart or the wrong heart?

Read Galatians 5:22-23. Paul is describing one fruit with many facets. An apple can be crisp, juicy, sweet, crunchy, and shiny yet it is still one fruit. There is no way I can get any one facet of an apple without partaking of all facets. So it is with the Fruit of the Spirit. Either I am experiencing all facets or I am not experiencing the fruit. Are each of these facets of the Fruit of the Spirit growing in your life? Do you measure your spiritual growth based on the manifestation of the Fruit of the Spirit or on something else? Ask yourself if you are becoming more loving, joyful, peaceful, patient, kind, good, faithful, gentle, and self-controlled. Be honest. Use this as the primary test of your spiritual growth for the next week.