

Give Thanks

Colossians 3:15-17

11.24.2024

Pastor Tristan Norris

A Unique Season Series

Reflect

Outline: Recap

Realize

Points to Ponder

Respond

Questions to draw out understanding.

REFLECT

In a world where complaining permeates our conversations, our culture, and our hearts, we can use gratitude as both the healing antidote to what ails us and the weapon that empowers us. But this is not a surface-level “put on a happy face and pretend everything is fine” type of gratitude. This is a gratitude that takes cultivation, long suffering, and surrender; only then can it become a deep well that can’t be impacted by the cynicism and negativity that swirls around us, allowing us to uniquely live lives of gratitude in this holiday season.

REALIZE

1. We live in a culture of complaining

- **Scripture Reference:** Colossians 3:15-17
- **Questions for Reflection**
 - How can we guard our hearts from slipping into patterns of negativity, cynicism, and complaining?

2. Gratitude is the antidote

- **Scripture Reference:** Colossians 3:15-17, Philippians 4:6-7, 2 Corinthians 10:4-5
- **Questions for Reflection**
 - How does a grateful heart change the way we experience both blessings and challenges?

3. Cultivate gratitude

- **Scripture Reference:** Colossians 3:15-17
- **Questions for Reflection**
 - How can you cultivate gratitude in this season?

4. At the heart of gratitude is surrender

- **Scripture Reference:** Colossians 3:15-17
- **Questions for Reflection**
 - What areas of your life might God be asking you to surrender as an act of trust and gratitude?

Optional Follow-up Questions:

- What makes you say that?
- How do you feel about that?
- How would you explain your answer to a non-Christian friend or neighbor?
- Why did God design it to work that way? Why not just do (whatever else) instead?
- What would you say to someone who disagrees with that?
- Why do we really have to do it like that? Why can't we just go (some other route) instead?