

The Gathering Community Group Guide

SatisFACTion // Week 4 // We are raised

Paul Jenkins

November 22, 2015

Colossians 3:1-17

Community Groups are used extensively as the primary vehicle for discipleship at The Gathering and run on a quarter system. There is one in the fall, one in the winter and one in the spring. During the summer weeks we don't meet in Community Groups but we still offer the Growth Guides as a tool to help you grow personally. The Growth Guides are designed to help you dig deeper into the weekly sermon on your own or with your family and are available each week along with the note sheets at church as well as online.

AS THE HOLIDAY SEASON APPROACHES, THE FALL QUARTER OF COMMUNITY GROUPS WILL BE ENDING. OUR WINTER QUARTER BEGINS IN JANUARY.

Consider...

Use the summary and discussion below to review and apply this week's message:

Message Summary

There can't be any two better bookends for the satisfied life than the cross of Christ and the resurrection of Christ! We started our SatisFACTion series with the finished work of Jesus at the cross, and this week we finish the series learning how the resurrection of Jesus is more than just a good Easter story. The fact is that, not only is Jesus raised, but we are raised, too, and raised people are changed people. Here are 4 things we've been raised to in Christ:

1. **A new level:** Just like people may be afraid of heights physically, we can be afraid of heights spiritually. But the view makes the climb worthwhile, and we don't need to be afraid of setting our hearts and minds at a higher level!
2. **A new life:** When we do move to a new level, we'll find that we have a new life because our lifestyle changes. It's not enough to theorize what the Christian life should look like! We're called to actually LIVE IT, and when we do, the new life looks very different from the old one.
3. **A new lineage:** We have a new family, and most of the people in it don't look like us (or at least, they probably shouldn't). But we should all look like Jesus, and living in community with others who have new life allows us to "smooth out the rough edges" that all of us have!
4. **A new love:** What keeps us from killing each other as we live together at a new level? A new love. Not a warm, fuzzy-filled, sappy Hallmark greeting card kind of love, but the love of our God given to us and then allowed to flow through us. That kind of love is like the climbing gear that keeps us from falling as we reach the new heights that we've been raised to!

Discuss

Use the following questions to review and apply the points learned in the message.

- What takeaway – if any – did you have from the message this week?
- There's a popular saying – "new levels, new devils." Why do you think it's so hard to live at a higher level? What (or who) typically tries to tear us down when we do?
- So often we want the new life to happen automatically, and that causes us to confuse resting in the hammock and being lazy in the hammock. (As we learned in week 1 of the series, it's the condition of the yard that reveals if we're resting or lazy.) In Ephesians 4:22-24, Paul writes that part of the new life is learning what to take off and what to put on. Read Ephesians 4:25-32 and talk about what we should take off and also what we should put on in its place.
- I love how Colossians 3:1-17 this week ends (look at verse 17): not with a to do list or things that "good" Christians should wear themselves out doing, but with the hammock of thanksgiving to God for what he's given us in Christ! Looking back over the 4 "L"s (level, life, lineage and love), which are you most thankful for right now in your life and why?
- Close out your group by offering sentence prayers expressing your thankfulness to God! Pray as many sentences as you need to express your thanks!