

DIGGING DEEPER

In part 2 of “One Small Step” we discussed the power of “one another” and why the word *Belong* is such an important word at The Grove Church. Enjoy the questions below as you take the message a bit deeper.

1. The opening story in the message was from a book by pastor and writer Max Lucado. Have you read anything from him? If so, was there anything you liked about his writing? (If you’ve never read a Max Lucado book, Pastor Nik would strongly recommend you do. A couple of his favorites include *No Wonder They Call Him the Savior*, *In the Eye of the Storm*, and *In the Grip of Grace*.)
2. On a “Maturity” scale (not exactly scientific!) where would you consider yourself and why? (ONE being a novice and a TEN being very mature.) Admittedly this is a bit arbitrary, but good for conversation and understanding in a group setting.
3. Read aloud Colossians 3:12-14.
 - Why is it important that the Apostle Paul includes “Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved...” before his instructions to clothe ourselves? (From Part 1, the end of Romans 8 is a huge boost in understanding God’s love for you. Have someone read vs. 38-39 as you consider that kind of love.)
 - Why does the Apostle Paul use the idea of “clothing” ourselves with this list of virtues?
 - In your own words, how would you describe each of these: compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience? I.E. In practical terms, what do these look like? Use examples if helpful, especially from your life.
 - Why does the Apostle Paul say it this way: “Over all these virtues put on love”? Why would love be separate and “above” the others?
4. In the article from Watermark Church, the following list is given as ways we “one another” according to Scripture. From your perspective are there areas you see some more plainly and others less? Why might that be?
 - Honor one another, greet one another, welcome one another, show hospitality, enjoy the community of one another, live in harmony, be at peace, be kind toward one another, forgive, bear [with], comfort, care for, confess sin to, pray for, encourage, build up, teach, sing with, stir one another toward love, do good to, serve, be humble toward, speak truth, don’t speak against, don’t provoke, don’t envy...
5. At The Grove Church we have Core Values. We call them The Code. Below are four of the nine that relate most to the message from Sunday. Which one(s) do you resonate with most?
 - We will do anything short of sin to reach people who don’t know Christ.
 - We are real people challenging real people. We are easy to be around and dedicated to growing together.
 - We will lead the way with irrational generosity. We believe it is more blessed to give than to receive.
 - We give up things we love for things we love even more. The church does not exist for us. We are the church and we exist for the world.

MAKING IT PERSONAL

1. How strongly do you believe God dearly loves you? How does this impact your ability to live securely and courageously? How might you grow in your confidence in His love?
2. Prayerfully, from the paragraph/list in Question 4 above, which (1 or 2) phrases do you think the Lord might challenge you to invite into your upcoming week? This is One Small Step to moving along on your maturity journey.
3. According to Jesus, who is your “neighbor”? Is there “a neighbor” specifically that could use an additional dose of your love? What is an easy thing you could do to show it this week?