

## Rooted and Built Up – Chosen People

### Study Questions

#### Colossians 3:9-15

##### Warm-Up

**1)** Think of how identity plays such a large role in our culture (how we self-identify as this or that). **What are some identities that we and our neighbors embrace? How might some of those identities shape people's behavior?** (“A Pats fan and an Eagles fan walk into a bar...”)

##### A Little Deeper

**2) [Colossians 3:10] What does it mean to “put on the new self”?** Think, perhaps, of different stages in life, and how someone might have to adopt new behaviors or ways of thinking to grow into a new role or environment. Feel free to share your own experiences of transformation.

**3) [Colossians 3:9] How does putting “off the old self with its practices” play into putting “on the new self”?** Consider, again, different stages of life, where someone may have to give up one thing or habit or mindset in order to gain another.

**4) [Colossians 3:11]** Take some time to carefully read this verse. Notice how it mostly describes what we are not (“put off the old self”). Also notice how verse 11 is very first century. (What even is a Scythian?!) Bring it into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. **What are we not – what is no longer our identity, if we are in Christ?**

**5) [Colossians 3:12-15]** Take some time to carefully reflect on verses 12-15. Notice how it describes who we are (“the new self”). **Who are we? How does our new identity transform the way we live our lives?**

##### Bringing It Home

**6)** Take a moment to consider your own life, in light of this Bible passage. **Are there any earthly identities that have played a big role in your past? Are there any identities that you would like to let go or allow to decrease in influence in your life?**

**7)** Consider the virtues we're called to in this passage and how they are present or absent in your life. **What are you doing well? Are there any areas that need work? How might you grow in those areas?**

**8) [Colossians 3:14]** This verse really brings it home to what is most important: love! Think of the role love should play as a motivator in our lives. Imagine what our lives could look like if love brought all our actions together in united harmony! **How can we feed love so that it grows more and more influential in our identity and behavior?**

##### Prayer

In light of what you've seen in your identity and behavior, consider asking for prayer or other support from your friends. Take time to bless each other and encourage each other in who you really are, while asking God to remove any false identities that we've held in our thinking. Encourage each other in God's love.