

## INCLUSIVENESS – LDG

Is it easy or difficult for you to be inclusive of others? Pause for just a moment and consider whether there is any type of individual or group that you might find it hard to include, or that your class might find it hard to include.

Our **culture** promotes tolerance, but then produces many ways to separate us. Name some things that separate us (suggestions – success, appearance, denominations, age).

Inclusiveness in CBS has multiple meanings:

- Our mission statement says that we are “making disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ in our communities through caring, in-depth Bible study available to all.”
- In our Leaders Council we strive for all to be included and to participate in prayer, in answering questions, in sharing life.
- In our core groups every member should feel accepted, comfortable and valued.

Scriptures: Read Romans 12:15-18, 1 Samuel 16:7

How can we exclude people in CBS? (Suggestions – political issues, books, denominations, what we say...or allow to be said)

Talk about the ways in which this can happen in your core groups.

Ask several leaders to talk about ways they have felt included/excluded personally. How did that make them feel?

Have someone read Col. 3:12-14.

*<sup>12</sup> Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, <sup>13</sup> bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.*

*<sup>14</sup> And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.*

“This passage immediately confronts us with the fact that our relationships don’t belong to us. They belong to God for his use and for his purpose. We cannot allow ourselves to have an owner’s view of our relationships, as if they exist for the sole purpose of our happiness. Paul is figuratively telling us to put on Christ, and in telling us to put on Christ, he is defining what our identity is in the right here, right now work of God. The best word for that identity is *ambassador*. Every believer is called to be an ambassador of the Savior King. You know that the only thing an ambassador does is represent the king who sent him. This means that Jesus makes his invisible presence visible through his people, who represent him in another’s life. You are the look on Christ’s face. You are the tone of his voice. You are the touch of his hands. You are the physical representative of his grace. This is your mission in every relationship of your life – to make the grace of the invisible King visible.” - Paul David Tripp, *New Morning Mercies*

What are your thoughts after reading the paragraph from Paul David Tripp?

Pray