

Small Group Questions: Compassion

Series: Set the Tone - Part 1

Pastor Josh Surratt

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Read

Colossians 3:5–16

Reflect

In Colossians, Chapter 3, the apostle, Paul, helps us learn about our new identity in Christ and teaches us the importance of compassion. Our attitude and mood can set the tone for our faith and lives. Even if our message is good, if the tone is off, it can create disharmony, and people aren't likely to listen. How do we set the right tone?

Pastor Josh Surratt highlights three ways we can try to set the right tone.

1. Stop singing out of tune.

- a. Read Colossians 3: 5–9. What does Paul say needs put to death, and who does he tell us to focus on?
- b. In reviewing Paul's list, where do you feel most out of tune right now, and why?
- c. Rather than to make us feel guilty, what do you think Paul's reasons are for providing this list?

2. Learn a few basic chords.

- a. Consider setting a goal this week to be compassionate.
 - i. Maybe write down and share how you could concentrate your efforts, (at work, school, home, stores, church, appointments?), to create the habit of noticing.
 - ii. Next week, consider doing a follow-up of how/where God led you to pay attention to the pain of people around you? What surprised you?
- b. How hard is it to allow yourself to get close enough to someone's pain and do something about it? Is it hard to listen? Hard to be generous with your time, money, etc.?
- c. Where could you serve to help you cultivate compassion?

3. Keep coming back to the root note.

- a. Every song has a root note. In Colossians 3:15 –16, what does Paul describe as our root note?
- b. What has taken root in your life that is spiritually unhealthy? How might it be impacting other areas of your life?
- c. Sometimes it takes conscious effort and slowing down, to notice we're off track. What is one step you can take today? Do you need to accept God's grace, forgiveness, or correction right now for something that has entangled you?
- d. Do you need someone to come alongside you? Are you willing to reach out? If you see someone who needs help, are you willing to reach out to them?

Respond: Where is God leading you? How can your small group support you?