



Enough is our Concordia University Texas theme for the 2023-2024 academic year.

## CONNECT

*with self and others:*

1. How often do you do laundry? Why?
2. What is the longest you have gone without doing laundry so far this semester?

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## ENGAGE

*the Word.*

Imagine if we never washed our clothes. What if we had washing machines but never used them? We would sit in our filth day after day. We wouldn't want to be around other people because we would be disgusted with their horrible stench. Maybe we even point out the smell to others. But let's face it, no one wants to hear that they smell. Meanwhile, we ourselves aren't cleaning our clothes either. We are too busy focusing on other people's problems that we don't see the need for change in ourselves.

This can be a metaphor for our lives. God sees our old clothes that weigh us down, and He freely gives us a fresh pair of good-smelling clothes (this would be our salvation). He even washes away all the blemishes and sins from the clothes daily with His blood that was shed for us on the cross so that we are constantly being renewed. Daily, we get to exchange our old clothes that are too far gone and gross, too smelly to live in and allow Christ to wash us clean continuously, day by day. Salvation is a one-time thing, riding those old dirty clothes is a one-time thing, but our life in Christ, our sanctification, happens every day.

**READ**  
Colossians 3:1-11



Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup> Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. <sup>3</sup> For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup> When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

<sup>5</sup> Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires, and greed, which is idolatry. <sup>6</sup> Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. <sup>7</sup> You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. <sup>8</sup> But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. <sup>9</sup> Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices <sup>10</sup> and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. <sup>11</sup> Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all and is in all.

- Colossians 3:1-11

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This passage goes on to remind us that God calls on us—His chosen people—to put on our new selves so that others can know the love of Christ through our actions. He calls us to forgive as we have been forgiven and allow Christ to rule our lives. In response to His great grace, He then asks us to be thankful for His many blessings He gives us and to worship Him in praise for the daily new self He has provided for us. The old Adam is gone, the new Christ-likeness image bearers have come!

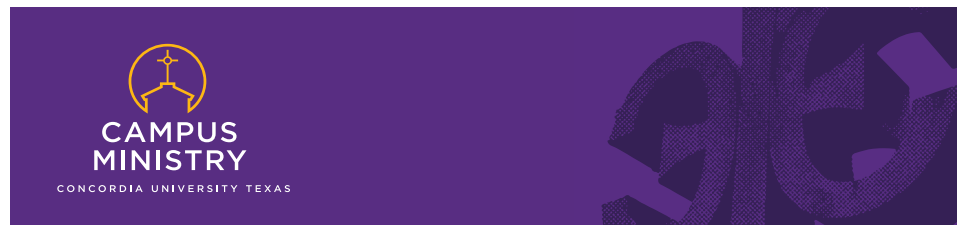
QUESTIONS:

- 1. What does the phrase “you have been raised with Christ” mean to you?
- 2. How can we seek the things that are above? What does that mean?
- 3. What earthly things in your life need to be put to death?

SHARE:

apply to your life.

- 1. What can we do, as God’s chosen ones, to help others understand the weight of our old selves and why it is important to “put on” our new selves?
- 2. How can you “put on love” in your daily life with this “new self”?
- 3. When have you struggled to put on compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, patience, or love? When is it most difficult? When is it easiest?
- 4. Gratitude is the onramp to joy. What are 3 things you are thankful for in this moment?



PRAYER:

Lord, thank you for the new life we have in You. Thank You for teaching us how to walk in love and peace by sending Jesus Christ to be the perfect example for us. Remind us of the joy that is found in You, Lord, and help us to put to death whatever is earthly in us so that we seek the things that are above. Thank You for washing us clean. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

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