

# Learning to Trust *Discipleship from Wilderness to Kingdom*

## 3. God's People: Learning to be Trustworthy

### *Faith in Action: Learning to be Trustworthy*

Colossians 3.1-17

**Aim:** To consider how the way we see ourselves outworks in our behaviour and that if we want to be trustworthy, acting faithfully according to God's wishes, that we need revelation of who we are, not just more rules to follow.

#### To start with:

Think of some celebrities whose behaviour is 'notorious' in some way. What do you think their actions probably reveal about how they see themselves?

**Note to Leaders:** *You could pick some celebrities and cut pictures from magazines to make this a more hands-on activity. Beware: not everyone may have heard of the celebrities you pick so be as obvious as you can. The reason for using celebrities rather than 'real people' is that it is possible to speculate about them theoretically without anyone being hurt or confidentiality being broken. However the aim of the discussion is not to criticise them, but ponder how actions emerge out of identity/insecurity.*

#### Engaging with the text:

In this passage Paul addresses how our faith should influence the way we see ourselves and therefore how we behave.

1. Divide the group in 3, give each a large sheet of paper and a pen and have them do one of the following each:
  - Pick out any statements that apply to our identity as Christians - list them.

- Pick out the behaviours of 'this world' (earthly actions) - list them.
- Pick out the behaviours of 'the Spirit of God' - list them.

2. Start with the 'earthly actions'. Why do you think people behave in these ways? What drives or motivates this kind of behaviour?
3. Now look at the 'Godly behaviours'. How is it possible to even begin to behave like this?
4. We are told to 'PUT TO DEATH' one of these lists and 'PUT ON' the other. What do those instructions suggest about how we become like Christ?
5.
  - a. Look at the 'Identity' list now. If we could grasp these things how would that practically affect the way we behaved? Why?
  - b. How can we begin to accept these things about ourselves - when they are so difficult to grasp?
  - c. If you have ever had a 'breakthrough' in one of these areas how did it happen, what were its effects? What suggestions would you have for those who don't feel that they have grasped that truth about themselves?

#### Reflect & Pray:

Try one of the following:

- Thank God for the breakthroughs and progress people have made in these areas already - and ask for the Holy Spirit to empower people to press on in their discipleship.



- In small groups spend some time asking God to give people the revelation they need in order to grasp who they really are in God's eyes.
- Spend some time in 2's/3's confessing those areas of struggle each has and praying for each other for a breakthrough in that area. (You might like to ask people if they are comfortable to be accountable/ report back in a few weeks as to how those things are going.)