

themselves. How would you respond to that charge about the difficulty of doing the things mentioned here like forgiving, being patient, being humble?

- g. Being *compassionate* doesn't mean being sentimental. Being *kind* doesn't mean being a soft touch. *Humility* isn't the same thing as low self-esteem. *Gentleness* is not weakness. How might you instead define each character trait?

How is a foundation of strength and confidence in Christ's peace the deciding factor in each?

- h. Paul balances the negatives of the old life with the positives of the new life in Christ. What is lacking when a Christian community denounces those things which should be "put off" without the corresponding emphasis on those things which should be "put on"?

II. General Discussion Questions

- What would it look like to "clothe" yourself with compassion" or "let the word of Christ dwell in you richly"?
- How can carrying this love and wisdom help guide your sense of calling?
- How might you seek to "do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus," even in those aspects of daily life that do not feel like a primary calling?

III. Pray

Ask the Holy Spirit to remove anything in your life which needs to be removed, and to increasingly clothe you with Christlikeness...pray for the leaders of our congregation during this time of transition...ask for God to reveal specific ways you can love God and love others this week.