

SERIES GRAPHIC w/email

Reaction Images – *put on the same slide x3*

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A lot of our lives is lived in the “reaction.**”**

{come up one at a time}

Today ...

- **We have more information to react to**
- **We have more ways to react**
- **We have not been disciplined by Jesus in our reactions**

Colossians 3:12a

Therefore, as God’s chosen ones, holy and dearly loved ...

Colossians 3:12b-15

... **put on** compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, ¹³ **bearing with one another** and forgiving one another if anyone has a grievance against another. Just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you are also to forgive. ¹⁴ **Above all**, put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity.

5 Areas:

- **Social Media**
- **Politics**
- **Work environment**
- **Home environment**
- **Church life**

Bad reactions are **not new but they have now been **normalized.****

{come up one at a time}

1) Do not **normalize** what God calls **abnormal**.

- A) The normalization of **emotionally-driven** reactions.
- B) The normalization of **anger-driven** reactions.
- C) The normalization of **disrespectful** reactions.
- D) The normalization of **self-righteous** reactions.
- E) The normalization of **vengeful** reactions.
- F) The normalization of **individualistic** reactions.
- G) The normalization of the love of **controversy** and thus **suspicious** reactions.

2) Confront **unbelief** and then believe—by faith—that **God's way is better**.

Proverbs 16:32

Patience is **better** than **power**, and controlling one's emotions (= *ruling over one's spirit*) than **capturing** a city.

{come up one at a time}

- a) Recognition: reactions are **revelations** to us.
- b) Consideration: burden of **bad** reactions
- c) Deception: I have to be **in control** to be happy (LIE)

God's normal requires the power of His grace.

- Not just *forgiving* grace but TRANSFORMING grace

3) The **Gospel** is the action that precedes and therefore causes my **reaction**.

{keep formatting on the display slides}

Colossians 3:12a

Therefore, as **God's chosen ones, holy and dearly loved** ...

put on compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another ... Above all, **put on** love ...

- a) Go deep into the doctrine of **justification** by faith in Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:21

He made the One who did not know sin to be sin **for us**, so that in Him we might become the **righteousness of God**.

Romans 4:5

But to the one who does not work, but believes on Him who **justifies the ungodly**, his faith is credited for **righteousness**.

b) Go deep into the doctrine of **adoption** into God's forever family.

Romans 8:14-16

For all those led by God's Spirit are **God's sons**. ¹⁵ For you did **not** receive a spirit of slavery to fall back **into fear**. Instead, you received the **Spirit of adoption**, by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father!" ¹⁶ The Spirit Himself testifies together with our spirit that we are God's children ...

Matthew 3:16-4:4

When Jesus was baptized, he went up immediately from the water. The heavens suddenly opened for him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming down on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from heaven said, "This is My **beloved Son**, with whom I am **well-pleased**." ⁴ Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ² After he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³ Then the tempter approached him and said, "**If you are** the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."

⁴ He answered, "It is written: *Man must not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.*"

Reactions are **demonstrations** that we are God's dearly loved children!

{come up one at a time}

- What actually happened and what am I feeling?
 - Say "No" to speculations & assumptions.
- What story am I telling myself?
- What does the Gospel say?
- What counter-instinctual reaction demonstrates the better story of Jesus?

I John 4:7-10 (NASB)

Beloved, let us **love one another**, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸ The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹ By this the love of God was manifested in us, that **God has sent** His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we loved God, but that **He loved us and sent His Son** to be the propitiation for our sins.