

COLOSSIANS

Part 2

Session 5 // Freedom in Jesus

Connect - These questions help get the conversation started. Pick one or two.

- Do you think your parents are “lenient” or “strict?” Did they have few rules or many? Which rule was the “biggie?”
- How do rules and regulations impact a person’s spiritual life? How does a person’s view of rules and regulations impact whether a person has relationship or religion?
- How is finding Christ like uncovering buried treasure for a believer?

Read Colossians 2:1-15

Grow / Share

1. What treasures are hidden in Christ? How do believers obtain these treasures?
2. We receive Jesus as Lord, and then are instructed to “live in Him” as Lord, how do believers do this?
3. If all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden in Christ, what does this imply about the nature of Christ? Could this be true if Christ were not deity?
4. What kind of philosophies and traditions are beneficial for believers? Why?
5. What kind of philosophies and traditions are harmful for believers? Why?
6. What might be some “human traditions” that Paul warns believers against?
7. How does the Church discern which “human traditions” should be kept? Eliminated?
8. How does a person discern which “human traditions” should be kept? Eliminated?
9. What does it mean to be “circumcised by Christ?” Why does a person change due to this circumcision?

Serve

Pray God will give you discernment with His purpose over your preferences!

Digging Deeper

Colossians 2:10: You are complete in Him

In whatever season, God has fully equipped us for our current voyage of life.

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Part 2

Session 6 // The Cross

Connect - These questions help get the conversation started. Pick one or two.

- What is the result of trying to base one's relationship with God on rule-keeping? Such as, what you eat? What you drink? Your actions? Your speech?
- Do laws legislate morality? Why or why not?
- Do rules and regulations change a person's heart? Why or why not?

Read Colossians 2:13-23

Grow / Share

1. When Paul refers to "the basic principles of this world," to what is he referring? How does Christ give believers victory over these?
2. "If you've been in church your whole life and trying to do what is right and check all of the boxes...you must be exhausted. If you are trying to do what is morally right without affections for Jesus it is exhausting." (Matt Chandler, *Colossians*) Why is this true?
3. "We behave morally out of a transformed heart; we don't behave morally to get close to God." (Matt Chandler, *Colossians*) How does this quote apply to relationship over religion?
4. Are there commands under the Gospel that restrict believers as to what they can handle, eat, or touch? Why or why not?
5. Are there rules under Church tradition that restrict believers as to what they can handle, eat, or touch? Why or why not?
6. What actions can believers take to conquer "evil thoughts and desires?" What does Colossians 2:23 indicate?
7. Discuss how the following statement is true: "If human effort is effective, the work of God is unnecessary."

Serve

Pray God will reveal to you the legalism you are practicing and replace it with a more loving relationship with Jesus.

Digging Deeper

What traditions or legalistic practices impede believers from truly worshipping Jesus? How can we overcome them?

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Part 2

Session 7 // Proper Priorities

Connect - These questions help get the conversation started. Pick one or two.

- What are many people stressed about in their lives? Why?
- Why do people get frustrated?
- What do you think is the greatest frustration for most people? Why?

Read Colossians 3:1-10

Grow / Share

1. In our culture, what do most people place their attention, time and affections toward? Why?
2. In what ways is God secondary in our lives?
3. How does a person focus on Jesus and lean into a relationship with Him?
4. How does a believer “train their mind to think on things above?”
5. What stirs people’s affections for Jesus Christ? Why?
6. What robs people’s affections for Jesus Christ? Why?
7. How can a person represent Jesus in a compelling way to those they influence?
8. Do you have a steadfast affection for Jesus Christ?
9. What is exhibited in an individual’s life when heavenly things are more important? Why is this?
10. What is exhibited in an individual’s life when earthly things are more important? Why is this?

Serve

Pray God will give you wisdom and discernment on how to “set your mind” on Him.

Digging Deeper

According to Colossians 3:10, how do believers put on the “new self?” What does this look like practically for believers?

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Session 8 // New “Mind,” New You

Connect - These questions help get the conversation started. Pick one or two.

- What is the greatest virtue a human exhibits in their life? Why?
- What is the greatest virtue a believer exhibits in their walk?
- Is there a difference between virtues in a believer and non-believer in their life? Why or why not?

Read Colossians 3:11-4:1

Grow / Share

1. How does a person clothe themselves with compassion? Kindness? Humility? Gentleness? Patience?
2. How does love bind together all of the characteristics of the fruit of the Spirit?
3. How does a person genuinely seek forgiveness of others?
4. Is there someone who comes to mind that needs forgiveness from you?
5. Is there someone you need to ask to forgive you?
6. Whether a slave or master, how are all believers to work? Why?
7. Is there a relationship between submission and love? How?
8. You are “chosen” (v 12), what implications does this have for a believer? For a non-believer?

Serve

Pray God will give you strength to live with both “your words and your deeds” focused on Him and for Him.

Digging Deeper

Examine and determine whether “your words and your deeds” are “done in the name of the Lord Jesus.”

COLOSSIANS

Part 2

Session 9 // Full of Grace

Connect - These questions help get the conversation started. Pick one or two.

- What are some spiritual practices that will grow your relationship in Christ?
- How do people waste time? Why do you think they do so?
- How are people “wise in the way they act and make the most of every opportunity?” (Col 4:4) Why does Paul call believers to act this way?

Read Colossians 4:2-6

Grow / Share

1. What are issues believers pray about?
2. What are issues non-believers pray about?
3. Is there a difference between praying believers and non-believers? Why?
4. Does God hear the prayers of non-believers? Why or why not?
5. How can a believer be “watchful?” What does this look like practically?
6. In what ways can a believer express thankfulness to God? To others?
7. How can a believer “make the most of every opportunity” to “outsiders?” What does this look like practically?
8. How does a believer prepare so “they you may know how to answer everyone” about the Good News of Jesus Christ?
9. Do you find your strength in the Gospel or what you can control?

Serve

Pray God will show you how to share the Good News with those around you.

Digging Deeper

What lessons can be learned in modern society about how masters and slaves are to treat others?

(David Pratte, *Colossians*)