



This guide is provided to help facilitate a clear understanding of the Bible passage with a focus on applying God's truth to our lives as individuals and as a group. Therefore, spend at least half your time discussing questions that are application focused. While the guide has been bulked up, you still need to prepare by praying through the passage, reviewing the guide on your own, and thinking about how your group might answer questions and follow-up questions.

Overview of Colossians

Background, Context and Structure

Paul's epistle to the Colossians was written to address the issue of the sufficiency of Christ in our salvation. It is not expressed exactly by Paul what the false teachings were, but it includes some rigid form of religious practices and observations, such as asceticism (2:18), observations of special occasions (2:17), and some forms of ecstatic vision or special knowledge (2:18).

Paul begins his epistle with his usual pattern of thanksgiving and prayer for the Colossians church. Then he builds up his case for the sufficiency of Christ in our salvation and the Christian life by elaborating on the preeminence and supremacy of Christ. It climaxes as Paul presents Jesus as the foundation of our salvation, set against the false teachings of rigid asceticism, legalistic observations, ecstatic vision or esoteric knowledge. Paul then explains what it means to be alive in Christ and the practical implications of the gospel for our lives, contrasting this against the false teachings that displayed religiosity but missed the point of what it means to be in Christ.

Getting to Christ

Christology is the most prominent theme in the book of Colossians, it helps us see how the person and work of Christ is the foundation of our salvation - pointing us then to how to live in Christ.

Big Idea of this Study

God makes us His own, a new creation, in Christ. Because we are a new creation, we should put off the flesh, and put on Christ.

What your CG must Take Away from this Study

For your group to put off the old self and put on the new self according to our new life in Christ. For your group to see that the new self displays love and unity in the body of Christ.

Read Colossians 3:1-16

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. ³ For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

⁵ Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. ⁶ On account of these the wrath of God is coming. ⁷ In these you too once walked, when you were living in them.

⁸ But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth.

⁹ Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices ¹⁰ and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. ¹¹ Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.

¹² Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, ¹³ bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴ And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

1. What does it mean that we have died (v3) and have been raised with Christ ? (v1)

- 2a. How does this passage tell us we should now live? (v9-11)

- 2b. What does our “old self” consist of? (v8-9)

- 2c. How did you see these in the way you used to live your life?

- 2d. How is now our “new self” different? (v10-13)

3. Who is the new self reflective of? (v10)

4. How have you seen the “new self” breaking into the lives of some of your CG members?

5. How does Paul address the Colossian church in v12a? What does this indicate about our identity in Christ?

- 6a. How does Paul tell us to put on the new self?

6b. Which of these aspects of the new self is God challenging you to put on today?

7a. In what sense is “putting on the new self” a communal activity? (v12-14)

Why do we need one another in order to live this out?

7b. How do the actions described in v8-11 ruin the body of Christ?

8. What are some ways we can build each other up by applying the practical exhortation in v16?

Apply Practically

Pray together, asking the Holy Spirit to apply Christ’s work to one another’s lives so that your group can live out your true identity in Christ today.