

A Life Worth Living – Paul’s Letter to the Colossians

Root Group Questions

The New Life – 3:1-17

1. In v1 Paul says that the Colossian Christians have been raised with Christ. As a Christian how does that make you feel? How does it change the way you live?
2. In v5 Paul challenges the Colossians to put to death whatever belongs to your earthly nature. What aspects of your 'earthly nature' do you still need to put to death? How can your root group encourage this process?
3. In v12-14 Paul instructs the Colossians to clothe themselves with godly virtues. How does this instruction relate to where he instructs the Galatians to 'live by the Spirit' who produces fruit in their lives? What is the relationship between God's work and our own effort and what difference does it make?

The Real Life – 2:16-23

1. In v 16-17 Paul speaks of particular practices that he calls "shadows". What so called 'spiritual rules' have you sought to keep in the past that have not actually brought you closer to Jesus?
2. What things in others lives are you likely to be judgmental of? Are these really issues that might cause someone to become disconnected from Christ, or are you in danger of disconnecting! How can you tell the difference?
3. If reality is found in Christ (v17) and Christ has set us free; are you living that true freedom? Or are you still subject to worldly principles based on temporal human teachings? (v20) How can you tell the difference?

The Full Life – 2:6-15

1. In what ways is your Christian life characterised by thanksgiving, and why? (v6)
2. In v10, Paul says we have been given "fullness in Christ". What does he mean? In what ways are you living 'the full life?' Do you sometimes think 'there must be more than this'? If so, why? How does this passage help you to respond?
3. In v12-13, Paul argues that believers have already been buried and raised with Christ. What practical difference does this belief make in your life?
4. According to v13-15, God has made us alive and forgiven our sins. How does this make you feel? How does it change your life?

The Mature Life – 1:24-2:6

1. In v24, Paul closely associates his own suffering with the suffering of Jesus. In what way does this help him endure? How do you understand suffering in your own life? In what ways does your understanding help you endure?
2. In v25, Paul speaks of the word of God in its fullness. What does he mean? What might you do to understand God's word more fully?
3. In v28, Paul speaks of his goal as presenting everyone perfect or mature in Christ. What are the areas of your life that need to change as you seek to become mature in Christ?
4. What are some of the "fine sounding arguments" we face today that takes you away from "Christ in whom are all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge." ()

The Supreme Life – 1:15-23

1. In v15, Paul says that Jesus is the image of the invisible God. How might this impact the way we talk about God?
2. In v16-17, Paul claims that everything that is has its origin; it's ongoing existence, and its destiny in Jesus. What are the practical, day-to-day, implications of this belief for us as disciples?
3. How does the Gospel that Paul outlines in v19-23 change the way you see yourself and others?
4. In v23, Paul calls on the Colossians to continue in their faith. How can you nurture your own faith and the faith of others?