

Teaching Outline: Colossians Chapter 1

Openers:

- Talk about a time where by your actions your faith was known that it caused someone to ask you about it.
- Talk about a time where someone thought they know everything about everything and how it made you feel.
- Talk about how a sickness was living in you and how it made you feel and compare that to Christ living in you and how that makes you feel.

Let Your Faith Be Known

Colossians 1:4-6

For we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and your love for all of God's people, 5 which come from your confident hope of what God has reserved for you in heaven. You have had this expectation ever since you first heard the truth of the Good News.

6 This same Good News that came to you is going out all over the world. It is bearing fruit everywhere by changing lives, just as it changed your lives from the day you first heard and understood the truth about God's wonderful grace.

Ask To Continually Be Filled With Knowledge

Colossians 1:9b-12

We ask God to give you complete knowledge of his will and to give you spiritual wisdom and understanding. 10 Then the way you live will always honor and please the Lord, and your lives will produce every kind of good fruit. All the while, you will grow as you learn to know God better and better.

11 We also pray that you will be strengthened with all his glorious power so you will have all the endurance and patience you need. May you be filled with joy, 12 always thanking the Father. He has enabled you to share in the inheritance that belongs to his people, who live in the light.

You Are Now Holy and Blameless

Colossians 1:21-23

This includes you who were once far away from God. You were his enemies, separated from him by your evil thoughts and actions. 22 Yet now he has reconciled you to himself through the death of Christ in his physical body. As a result, he has brought you into his own presence, and you are holy and blameless as you stand before him without a single fault.

23 But you must continue to believe this truth and stand firmly in it. Don't drift away from the assurance you received when you heard the Good News. The Good News has been preached all over the world, and I, Paul, have been appointed as God's servant to proclaim it.

You were once an enemy against God because of our sinful nature, but because of Jesus we can now stand before God and he looks at us as holy and blameless before Him.

Christ Lives In You

Colossians 1:24-29

24 I am glad when I suffer for you in my body, for I am participating in the sufferings of Christ that continue for his body, the church. 25 God has given me the responsibility of serving his church by proclaiming his entire message to you. 26 This message was kept secret for centuries and generations past, but now it has been revealed to God's people. 27 For God wanted them to know that the riches and glory of Christ are for you Gentiles, too. And this is the secret: Christ lives in you. This gives you assurance of sharing his glory.

28 So we tell others about Christ, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all the wisdom God has given us. We want to present them to God, perfect in their relationship to Christ. 29 That's why I work and struggle so hard, depending on Christ's mighty power that works within me.

Action Steps:

- Do something that shows you love people and that they would ask you about your faith. (ex. buy someone's coffee or meal behind you. Talk to a neighbor and get to know them. Sit with someone who sits by themselves at school, etc)
- Pray to God that He fills you with knowledge. Go ahead. I bet you would be surprised about how God answers that prayer.
- Do you really believe that in Jesus we are holy and blameless? take time this week to really reflect and pray that you begin to see yourself how God sees you though Jesus.
- Ask yourself, what if you really believed and lived like Christ's power lives in you. Think about the things that could be accomplished if we really believed that?

Thought of the week:

What if you really believed and lived like Christ lives in you?

Questions:

- What do you think it means to have your faith be known?
- What are some tangible ways in which you can make your faith known to your friends and family?
- What does it mean to bear fruit?
- Why do you think it's so important for us to be asking for knowledge in the Lord?

- How can we tell if we are living according to God's will for our lives?
- Would you consider yourself holy and blameless? Why or why not?
- How does it make you feel that when we follow Jesus, God views us as holy and blameless just like Jesus?
- Do you ever drift back and forth in this realization? Why or why not?
- What do you think it means that Christ lives in you?
- If this is true, how should our lives be different?
- Do you tell others about Jesus? Why or why not?
- Why do you think it can be so hard sometimes?

Teaching Outlines: Colossians Chapter 2

Openers:

- Talk about a time where either you were working on something and found out it was incomplete so you could not finish it and how that make you feel.
- Talk about a time where you thought something was dead but it was really alive.
- Talk about a time where you were so anxious that you settled for something because you couldn't wait and you were in the moment and it was a huge let down.

Continue To Live Your Life In Jesus

Colossians 2:6-7

6 And now, just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow him. 7 Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness.

Do Not Settle For Anything Less Than Jesus

Colossians 2:8

8 Don't let anyone capture you with empty philosophies and high-sounding nonsense that come from human thinking and from the spiritual powers of this world, rather than from Christ.

Do not give up your destiny in Jesus for a feeling for a moment.

You Are Complete In Jesus

Colossians 2:9-12

9 For in Christ lives all the fullness of God in a human body. 10 So you also are complete through your union with Christ, who is the head over every ruler and authority.

11 When you came to Christ, you were "circumcised," but not by a physical procedure. Christ performed a spiritual circumcision—the cutting away of your sinful nature. 12 For you were buried with Christ when you were baptized. And with him you were raised to new life because you trusted the mighty power of God, who raised Christ from the dead.

You Are Alive In Jesus

Colossians 2:13-15

You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ, for he forgave all our sins. 14 He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross. 15 In this way, he disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross.

Action Steps:

- Make a list of things in your life right now that you are giving up your full potential in Jesus because you are giving into a moment for the feeling of now.
- List some ways in which you can continue living for Jesus. What are some physical and mental, tangible ways to do this?
- Talk to a leader about an emptiness that you are feeling in your life and have them pray over you that Jesus is anything and everything you need to make you feel whole.

Thought of the Week:

Do not sacrifice your destiny that God has for you for a choice moment.

Questions:

- In verse 7 it says to “let your roots grow down in Him”. What do you think that means in our lives and living for Jesus? What does that look like in real life?
- What do you think it looks like to overflow with thankfulness? (v. 7)
- Is there anything in your life that you maybe feel you are settling less for? Why do we tend to go towards those things?
- Have you ever felt that your life is incomplete? Why or why not?
- In verse 9 when it talks about how Jesus completes us, how does that make you feel? Why or why not?
- What does it mean that we were once dead because of our sins? (v.13)
- How does Jesus make us alive?

Teaching Outline: Colossians Chapter 3

Openers:

- Talk about a time where you were dressed for something that people either made fun of you or you were misinformed about the dress code of a place you went to.
- Talk about a time where you had your mind set on something and it backfired in your face.
- Talk about a time where you were struggling with something in the verses below and tell your students how you dealt with it.

Set Your Mind on Things Above

Colossians 3: 1-4

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

Kill What's Killing You

Colossians 3:5-10

5 Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. 6 Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. 7 You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. 8 But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. 9 Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices 10 and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.

Put On The New You

Colossians 3:10-17

10 and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. 11 Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.

12 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. 13 Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. 14 And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. 16 Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms,

hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. 17 And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Respect Those Who Are In Charge of You

Colossians 3:18-25

18 Wives, submit yourselves to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.

19 Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them.

20 Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.

21 Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.

22 Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to curry their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord. 23 Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, 24 since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. 25 Anyone who does wrong will be repaid for their wrongs, and there is no favoritism.

(Depending on your group, it might be a good idea to give a little more context on what slaves were in those times and what wives submitting to their husbands means)

Action Steps:

- Make a list with two columns: one side with a list of things you have your mind on the things on the earth, one side with the things you want to focus more on with the things above like it talks about in the passage.
- Talk to your leaders about what things you need to put to death in your life.
- Make a list of the things listed in verses 5-10 that maybe you need to focus on getting rid of.
- Think of ways you can actually clothe yourself in Jesus. Think of some practical ways.

Thought of the Week:

How you clothe yourself will label what you stand for.

Questions:

- Why do you think it tells us to keep our mind on things above? What is the benefit to this?
- Do any of the things listed in verse 5 stick out to you in your life? What about verse 8?
- What do you think it means to put to death these things?

- Is there anything in your life right now that you feel you need to put to death? Why or why not?
- Do you think it is going to be hard or easy? Why or why not?
- What does it mean to be renewed by the Creator? (v. 10)
- Do you really believe you can be renewed like it says you can? Why or why not?
- What do you think it means to put on the new you?
- How can we let the peace of Christ rule our hearts? (v.15)
- What are some things right now you can do to give glory to God in your every day life?

Teaching Outline: Colossians Chapter 4

Openers:

- Be open about how your prayer life is with God right now or how it was in the past.
- Talk about a time where you put your foot in your mouth and said something you should not have said.
- Talk about a time where you wish you had more wisdom and you messed up something pretty badly.

Devote Yourself To Prayer

Colossians 4:2-4

2 Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. 3 And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. 4 Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should.

Walk With Wisdom, Speak With Grace

Colossians 4:5-6

5 Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. 6 Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

Encouragement Works

Colossians 4:7-18

Tychicus will tell you all the news about me. He is a dear brother, a faithful minister and fellow servant in the Lord. 8 I am sending him to you for the express purpose that you may know about our circumstances and that he may encourage your hearts. 9 He is coming with Onesimus, our faithful and dear brother, who is one of you. They will tell you everything that is happening here.

10 My fellow prisoner Aristarchus sends you his greetings, as does Mark, the cousin of Barnabas. (You have received instructions about him; if he comes to you, welcome him.) 11 Jesus, who is called Justus, also sends greetings. These are the only Jews among my co-workers for the kingdom of God, and they have proved a comfort to me. 12 Epaphras, who is one of you and a servant of Christ Jesus, sends greetings. He is always wrestling in prayer for you, that you may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured. 13 I vouch for him that he is working hard for you and for those at Laodicea and Hierapolis. 14 Our dear friend Luke, the doctor, and Demas send greetings. 15 Give my greetings to the brothers and sisters at Laodicea, and to Nympha and the church in her house.

16 After this letter has been read to you, see that it is also read in the church of the Laodiceans and that you in turn read the letter from Laodicea.

17 Tell Archippus: "See to it that you complete the ministry you have received in the Lord."

18 I, Paul, write this greeting in my own hand. Remember my chains. Grace be with you.

(This is Paul explaining about who is coming and who is greeting. He encourages people through his letters and hitting on how he sets other people for success could be huge for your group.)

Action Steps:

- Devote yourself to prayer. Whatever that means to you. If you don't pray, pray once a week. If you pray once a week, increase it. Make it a daily part of your week.
- Think of other ways in which you can communicate to God. Find out what works great for you. (Pray, talk out loud, sing, journal, etc.)
- Walk with wisdom. Get wisdom on an upcoming decision from a trusted friend or family member or pastor. Give it to the Lord. Ask for wisdom from Him.
- Be intentional about how you are speaking to people. Make sure it is full of grace.
- Send a quick text to someone who you feel needs to be encouraged. Let them know you are thinking about them and praying for them.

Thought of the Week:

God communicates with because of His grace so we can communicate to each other with grace.

Questions:

- Would you consider your prayer life right now to be good? Why or why not?
- What does your prayer life consist of right now? Be honest.
- Do you think it is easy or hard to talk to God? Why or why not?
- What are some ways we can devote ourselves to prayer? What does that look like for you?
- What are some ways in which you can make sure you walk in wisdom?
- Who do you usually go to for advice or wisdom? Why?
- Do you really believe that God can give you wisdom? Why or why not?
- What does it mean to speak in grace?
- What are some ways in which we can make sure we do this?