

## Colossians 3:1-14

### *Week 7 - Set Your Mind On Things Above*

? Tell about a time you tried something new, completely out of your comfort zone, when you didn't know what to expect. What did you try, and how did that experience feel?

#### **Colossians 3:1-14 (NIV)**

<sup>1</sup> Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup> Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. <sup>3</sup> For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup> When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

<sup>5</sup> Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. <sup>6</sup> Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. <sup>7</sup> You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. <sup>8</sup> But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. <sup>9</sup> Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices <sup>10</sup> and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. <sup>11</sup> Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.

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

? What are the Colossians specifically commanded to do in this passage?

? Underline all the verbs in this passage. What can we learn about our old and new natures from Paul's language choices in verses 2, 5, 12, and 14?

? How do these choices play out in a practical way?

? Why do you think we are called to set our minds on “things above” and what is the significance of this? Why is this comforting?

? “Put to death” is a very strong phrase. Why did Paul call for such extreme measures?

? Paul adds some additional “do not’s” in verse 8. Why do you think you are supposed to go that extra distance with these things in particular?

? What sin does Paul address with its own command? Why do you think that is?

? Contrast verses 12-14 with verses 5-7. Imagine a person living the first life versus a person living the second. What outward differences would you see in their life? When faced with conflict or criticism, how might they respond differently?

? Optional question: Which of the positive qualities outlined in verses 12-14 do you see in specific people in our small group? Which trait do you admire most?

**Christ is all, and is in all.**

Re-read verse 11. In Christ, we are not separated by race, heritage, religion, status, or anything else! Christ binds us all together. What does this mean? You’re not better than anyone else, but you’re not worse than anyone else either. You all have the same commands, and no one has exemptions or extra work when it comes to salvation. Christ is ALL, and is IN all!

#### **Matthew 7:1-5 (NIV)**

<sup>1</sup> “Do not judge, or you too will be judged. <sup>2</sup> For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

<sup>3</sup> “Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? <sup>4</sup> How can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? <sup>5</sup> You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.

? It's easy to assign flaws, failures, and sins to others in our life—and then totally overlook our own. How can we begin to see our own sins and flaws clearly?

#### **Boundaries**

Though Jesus calls us to forgive others innumerable, we are allowed to set boundaries—we don't just have to continue accepting everything everyone says or does to us. We can forgive, but also choose to walk away or distance ourselves from an unhealthy relationship, a dramatic work environment, an explosive family dynamic, etc.

? Forgiveness is not easy. When someone has hurt or wronged us, it can feel impossible to offer them forgiveness. Why does Paul call us to forgive others anyway? How does it benefit you and the person you're forgiving?

? Share a story of a time you forgave someone. How did you feel, before and after? Alternatively, tell a story of when someone you hurt forgave you. How did you feel?

? Why is love the final and greatest thing to do? What does it look like for this group to love in a way that binds together?

#### **For Discussion and Accountability**

? Is there anyone in your life you need to forgive? Is there anyone in your life you need to ask forgiveness from?

? Which of Paul's commands would you like to work on most, in your own life? What specific things can you do this week to improve in one or two of these areas?