

Colossians

Lesson 5: Jesus Is All We Need for Life

Colossians 3:1-4 Made Alive in Christ

1. Paul says that we have been raised with Christ (Colossians 3:1). When and how did that happen? (cf. Colossians 2:12)
What difference should it make in the way that we live? (cf. Colossians 3:2)
2. Show how you can use Colossians 3:3, 4 to encourage a new believer who says: “When I became a Christian I thought my life would get better. Instead I’ve just gone from one crisis to the next!”

Colossians 3:5-10 Rid Yourself of Sin

3. In Colossians 3:5, 8, 9 Paul describes the life governed by the sinful nature. Which three sins listed do you struggle with the most?
4. What reasons does Paul give in Colossians 3:6, 9, 10 for not excusing our sin by saying, “I can’t help it. That’s just the way I am”?

Colossians 3:11-14 Clothed with Compassion

5. Colossians 3:12-14 is often used as a wedding text. Why is this appropriate?
6. Preachers sometimes describe the attributes in Colossians 3:12-14 as “God’s wedding clothes.” But unlike normal wedding clothes, which are more for show and only used on one occasion, God’s clothes are

“work” clothes. Pick one of the following words and write a definition for it and draw a picture to illustrate the word in action.

compassion –

kindness –

humility –

gentleness –

patience –

7. “Loving ‘everybody’ is easy. It’s not too hard to be compassionate, kind, lowly, meek, and patient toward people in general and at a distance, toward people whom we never see and probably will never meet. We pray for the conversion of our enemies, send a check to missions and commend all men to the mercies of God...[but] when we are called upon to ‘forbear *one another*’ and to ‘forgive *each other*’ when it comes to concrete individual cases we are put to the test.” (Martin Franzmann)
What enables us to forbear and forgive *each other*? (cf. Colossians 3:11-14)

Colossians 3:15-17 *Let Peace Rule*

8. Paul goes on in this section (Colossians 3:15-17) to describe other ways God’s chosen people will act. What are they?

Colossians 3:18-4:1 *Relationships*

9. Pick *one* of the following scenarios and use the section you just read to prepare you to role-play the scenario with the instructor.
- a) You want to give direction to your grandchild and her fiancé on their God-given roles in marriage. Help them understand these key concepts: submission, and love. (Also consult Ephesians 5:22-33.)
 - b) A family comes to you for counselling. The child thinks that the dad is overbearing. The dad is fed up with his child’s stubbornness. (Also consult Ephesians 6:1-4.)
 - c) Your teenager is about to begin his first job. What encouragement and advice do you give him?