



IN CHRIST

WEEK ONE

READ Colossians 1:1-12

DISCUSS

1. Who is writing this letter?
2. To whom is the letter being written?
3. What is Paul's expressed wish for the believers who live in Colosse?
4. How is our understanding of Paul's letter impacted by the fact that he's writing to believers and not to the whole world-at-large?
5. In verse 6, Paul says that "the gospel is bearing fruit and growing". What are some signs in our day of a fruitful gospel? What could be some signs of stagnation?
6. In verse 11, Paul tells the Colossians (a persecuted church) that he is praying that they would have endurance. Why do you think the believers in Colosse might have needed endurance? How do you think the need for endurance applies to our 21st-century American lives?



WEEK TWO

READ Colossians 1:13-23

DISCUSS

1. Verse 13 is a powerful declaration of what Jesus did for us on the cross. Go around the circle and take 60 seconds to express the way Christ rescued you from darkness.
2. Paul tells us that the Son is the exact image of the Father. This statement holds so many implications. Are there examples in the Bible where you feel there are apparent discrepancies between the character of God the Father and the character of Jesus the Son?
3. Read verse 19. What does this tell us about the nature of the Father as expressed through the person and purpose of the Son?
4. During this sermon series at Westside, the speakers will often say that "Jesus is perfect theology." What does this mean to you?
5. In verses 21-23, Paul gives us the pain point of all humanity: Our sin kept us far from God. He goes on to tell us the remedy for that situation. What is it? How has that played out in your life?
6. Paul tells us that Christ is the head of the Church - this must mean that the Church is very important to Jesus. Why is it hard for believers to love the Church in the same way that Jesus does? What solutions do you see to this problem?



IN CHRIST

WEEK THREE

READ Colossians 2:1-10

DISCUSS

1. Paul tells the Colossians that he is working very hard for them and that he has a couple of big goals for their future. Discuss what a community would look like if these characteristics were present and flourishing:
 - A. Encouraged in heart
 - B. United in love
 - C. Enjoying the full riches of “complete understanding” of the mystery of Christ
 - D. Not deceived by other arguments (the Message says “I don’t want anyone leading you off on a wild goose chase.”)
2. Read verse 6 out loud. What does it mean to you to live “in Christ” and to be “rooted in Him”?
3. In verse 8, we’re warned against letting anyone take us captive through “hollow and deceptive philosophy”. How have you seen our culture become enslaved to deception in our age? What is the result?



WEEK FOUR

READ Colossians 2:11-23

DISCUSS

1. Verse 13 says, “When you were dead, God made you alive with Christ.” Sometimes at Westside we say, “Jesus didn’t find you in the hospital - He found you in the cemetery.” What does this mean to you? How have you seen the resurrection power of Jesus at work in your life?
2. Verses 16-17 talk about following rules. Paul calls the law a “shadow” and Christ the “substance”. What do you think this means?
3. What role do you feel rule-following plays in discipleship?
4. Read verses 18-19 out loud. Here we see what happens when a people stay IN the Church and yet, become disconnected from relationship with the Head of the Church. What are those results?
5. What do you think it means to have “died with Christ?” How does that look in the life of a believer?



IN CHRIST

WEEK FIVE

READ Colossians 3

DISCUSS

1. In this passage, Paul again returns to the theme of life vs. death. For the duration of your discussion, create two columns and find everything in this chapter that relates to LIFE and everything that looks like DEATH. Then, add anything to the columns that you feel demonstrate true life or living-death.
2. Based on the columns, are you more alive or more dead? What might you do to move into increasingly alive living?



WEEK SIX

READ Colossians 4

DISCUSS

1. In verse 2, Paul says to “be watchful and thankful.” Gratitude is powerful in the life of a disciple. Go around the circle and each person say three things for which you are thankful today.
2. Verses 5 & 6 contain an important admonishment to believers - especially in our current culture. Read it out loud and discuss what you think this could look like in our words and conversations today.
3. Paul mentions several people at the end of his letter. From this passage, what can we surmise about who they were and who they were to Paul?
 - A. Tychicus
 - B. Onesimus
 - C. Aristarchus
 - D. Mark
 - E. Epaphras
 - F. Nympha
4. Paul signs off his letter the same way he started it: Grace be with you. How does it affect your reading of Colossians, knowing that Paul wrote it from prison?
5. What are you challenged to do, change, become or believe because of your study of Colossians?