



COLOSSIANS

Colossians 2:6-23 // Rooted in Freedom

By Andrew Farhat

Getting Started

- *Larger LIFEGroups may consider splitting into same gender groups in order to facilitate more meaningful discussion.*
- *Groups will not have enough time to discuss every question. Leaders are encouraged to skip questions and make substitutions based on what's best for their group.*

Warm Ups (15 Min)

- Everyone go around and share a “High” from the week and a “Low” from the week.
- Who is your favorite musician or band?

Scripture Study (30 Min)

- Read Colossians 2:6-23.
- The main idea is that the Colossians were not to be swayed by false teaching such as: keeping man-made traditions (2:8), submitting to circumcision (2:11), keeping the law (2:14), keeping a certain diet (2:16), keeping the Sabbath (2:16), and fasting (2:18) as a means of obtaining righteousness. The Colossians have everything they need for salvation and spiritual growth in Christ alone (2:9-15).
- “Elemental spirits of the world” is a phrase used by Paul to describe false teaching in a fallen spiritual world.

- Paul teaches that the ceremonial law in the Old Testament was “a shadow” but the “substance” belongs Christ (2:17). Paul is a strong proponent of the freedom of the Christian in matters that are not commanded nor forbidden by Christ and His Apostles. However, Paul does say: “All things are lawful for me,” but not all things are helpful. ‘All things are lawful for me,’ but I will not be dominated by anything” (1 Corinthians 6:12).
- Legalism has taken different forms over the centuries. One form of legalism is when teachings are considered binding to the Christian life that are neither commanded nor forbidden by Christ and His Apostles. Do you have a propensity to go more in the direction of legalism or freedom?
- In some people’s Christian backgrounds, observing human tradition was very important. In others, not drinking alcohol, not listening to certain music, and/or not having tattoos was considered valuable. What legalistic teachings did you encounter growing up?
- When it comes to areas of freedom, it often gets messy. One may want to keep some rules and be disciplined for themselves. The problem comes when they judge others by the man made rules they want to keep. What are some wise rules that you believe are helpful for you to live by which are not commanded by Scripture?
- Freedom in Christ is never taught by Paul as a license or permission to sin. Pastor and Author Matt Chandler wisely says: “We should not be entertained by anything that God considers grotesque.” How does this statement impact you?
- Paul does not consider baptism a man made tradition but calls it the “circumcision of Christ.” Circumcision was the identity marker performed on infants 8 days old. It indicated that one was a part of the Old Covenant people of God. He considers it a gift from Jesus that buries the old man (2:12) and also raises us up from the dead (2:12). For those who have been baptized, take a moment and reflect upon this tangible gift that came directly from Jesus to you. Paul also parallels baptism with circumcision which is one of the reasons some scholars believe that Paul believed in infant baptism.
- Is God calling on you to live with greater freedom and less condemnation towards others around you?
- Is God calling on you to get rid of any trash in your house that you are currently being entertained by?

Group Prayer (15 Min)

Trios (20 Min)

Same gender groups of three. If numbers are uneven, go to groups of two.

- **Spiritual Velocity:**
 - How did you see God at work in your life this week?

- What has God been teaching you in His Word as you've encountered it in this week's Life Journal readings, Sunday message, or LIFEGroup study?
- What's an area of your life in which you know you need to repent or grow? How can we encourage you?

- **Joining Jesus on His Mission:**

- What kind of conversations are you having with non-Christians? How's your 3-2-1 challenge going? Share about connections you're building and spiritual conversations you're having with non-believing neighbors and friends.

- List the names of non-Christians in your life that you can pray for:

- What good can we do around here? (Missional party? Service project?)
- How can we help each other, our neighbors, and our city in prayer?