

Reflecting on Colossians August 6, 2023

Note: *Many of the questions used in our discussions come from the MacArthur Bible Studies book, "Colossians & Philemon: Completion and Reconciliation in Christ" (Thomas Nelson, 2007).*

PRAY

Colossians 3:1-17 lists several common behaviors; some that believers should "put off" and some that we should "put on." As you read through this list, you may find it easy to identify behaviors and attitudes that you need to remove from your life, as well as some you need to begin or do more consistently. For this reason, we encourage you to open your Sunday discussion with a time of silent reflection and prayer. Confess your faults to the Lord, and seek His help in living according to His ways. After some time, facilitators should pray out loud before transitioning to Discussion Questions.

DISCUSS

- 1) **Read Colossians 3:1-4.** The beginning of this chapter forms a kind of bridge between what Paul has discussed in the first two chapters and what he expresses now. What do verses 1-4 teach us about Christ? What do they teach us about believers?

- 2) **Read Romans 8:31-39.** According to these verses, why is focusing on the realities of heaven so important? Based on this passage as well as Colossians 3:1-17, list three practical steps you could start today to “set your mind on things above.”

- 3) **Read Colossians 3:5-11.** What are the specific behaviors that are forbidden in these verses?

4) **Read Colossians 3:12-17.** What positive, God-honoring traits and practices are encouraged in these verses?

5) **Read Colossians 3:17.** What does it look like to “do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus”? Give examples of the items on the next panel:

- *Parenting* in the name of the Lord Jesus
- *Shopping* in the name of the Lord Jesus
- *Talking on the phone* in the name of the Lord Jesus
- *Working* in the name of the Lord Jesus
- *Driving* in the name of the Lord Jesus
- *Eating* in the name of the Lord Jesus
- *Serving* in the name of the Lord Jesus

LIVE

Read Colossians 3:5-11 and 12-17. This week, meet up with another person or couple in your Life Group and share some behaviors you may need to “put off” or “put on.” Then pray together and commit to keeping each other accountable in these areas (e.g., schedule a “check-in” call once a week to encourage one another).