

Christ is All We Need

Colossians 2:1-10

I. Introduction: One Name

1. Colossae, along with Hierapolis and Laodicea, was one of three prominent cities in the Lycus valley of western Turkey. [I note this because Paul speaks of those in Laodicea in our opening verse today](#) and the Apostle John's writings regarding this city in **Revelation 3:14-22** offer us great insight about what was occurring in Colossae.
 - A. Specifically, Laodicea had become self-sufficient, she didn't need God and while for a different reason, this is where Colossae was heading. [More specifically, the Gnostics special knowledge and/or Jesus-plus something else requirements drawn from merging the Jewish law into the Christian faith were bleeding into the church's doctrine.](#) And man-knowledge always leads mankind away from God. [Why?](#) Because man rests in our knowledge AND in the "promises" of knowledge for it offers autonomy from God.
2. One final introductory note for us today – a note that I hope prompts us to consider our love for God's church. [Led by the Spirit of God, Paul loved the church.](#) It didn't matter if he planted the church, attended the church, visited the church, or knew the people that were there. [What mattered is that the church is God's and so he loved her with all his heart.](#) Further, it genuinely broke Paul's heart when a church did NOT walk in the victory that God freely gave them.
3. One final, final introductory note. [Isn't it wonderful that the only knowledge we need to have eternal life is freely given by God Himself?!](#) That is, we need not labor and toil for that which can't give life, but the very Designer and Giver of life wants us to come into relationship with Him. [What a fool I was in looking to the world instead of to Jesus for the completeness only He offers...](#)it has

always been but one Name, one confession, one act of receiving the gift of God's grace.

4. Okay, one final, final, final opening note. *As we travel through our passage today, we see Paul's modus operandi of encouraging believers to together (1) know and walk in truth and (2) expose and reject lies against Jesus and His word.* Not so very complicated and yet, in emphasizing our need for encouragement, our victory is often a very real struggle.

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II. Colossian 2:1-5: Rejoicing, for the Battle is Won

1. First up in these verses is Paul's conflict, also translated as fighting, agonizing, struggling, and contending for Colossae believers to be encouraged by their faith in Christ alone. *This battle is worldwide.* It's in our state, our town, and in our living rooms. *The enemy is a liar and he seeks to derail us by lies and through coercion of the ones we love.* And this, I pray that we (CCA and the church more broadly) will share in Paul's fervor for God's church broadly AND our missionaries particularly.
2. In verse 2, Paul notes three reasons for his agonizing heart:
 - A. Encouraged. This first suggests that they may have been discouraged by (i) *the conflicting doctrinal camps within the church family*, (ii) Epaphras not being present to shepherd them, and (iii) *spiritual attacks*.
 - B. Supernatural Unity is the second reason. *Paul notes his desire for them to be knit together in the unifying power of Godly love (agape - esteem, affection, warm regard).* This type of unity carries the idea of NOT simply sharing some transitory unity, but of a unity marked by unbreakable eternal bonds.
 - C. The final reason Paul offers is his desire for them to know (experientially), understand, and attain the promises of God. *For it is in Christ Jesus, who is the "mystery" Paul refers to here in v2, they will find all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge*

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needed for eternal life. This remains an essential truth today...it is only in Christ that we, led by the Spirit, find and appropriate the treasure of the Gospel in being reconciled to and made complete in Him.

This final reason represents Paul's preparation for a direct assault on the Gnostics emphasis of possessing special spiritual knowledge that places their religion as a higher authority than Christ. This is a clear form of idolatry that Paul addressed in his first letter to the Corinthian church some years earlier in **1 Corinthians 8:1-2** where he also wrote in the power of love. Specifically, in that passage he noted that knowledge puffs up while love edifies.

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Turn with me to the book of **Ephesians**, first to **chapter 3**, beginning in **v14**. Paul wrote this book about a year before his letter to the Colossians. I think it helpful to see Paul pointing to yet another church regarding the fullness of God found only in the person of Christ in His powerful prayer. While we have not gotten to vs 6-7 in our Colossians passage today, you will also note the continuing parallels in these two passages.

¹⁴ For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵ from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, ¹⁶ that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, ¹⁷ that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸ may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height—¹⁹ to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

²⁰ Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, ²¹ to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

- Ephesians 3:14–21

Now, keep moving with me into Ephesians 4, beginning in verse 1 (NLT):

Therefore I, a prisoner for serving the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God. ² Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love. ³ Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace. ⁴ For there is one body and one Spirit, just as you have been called to one glorious hope for the future. ⁵ There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all, in all, and living through all.

- Ephesians 4:1–6, NLT

3. So, before we move on further, let's draw back into Paul's point regarding unity "being knit together in love"...*a point Paul makes repeatedly throughout his letters*. Why? *Because achieving and maintaining unity was and is a problem in the church*.
 - A. Over the years, I have found that church people often nod their heads in agreement with the principal of unity in Christ – *at least until they have been offended for whatever the reason...good or bad, big or small*. Then people most often pack their bags and move on without thought or effort toward the very unity God calls His children to.
 - B. The unevenness of church unity should not surprise any of us as far too many approach the church with a consumer attitude of what the church can do for them rather than worshipful hearts "*being knit together in love, and attaining to all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge*".
 - C. So, all this to say that I wrestled with the ongoing problem of a lack of Biblical unity a good deal in preparing this sermon. *Why is it a problem?* What are the causes? *How can we overcome the things keeping us from unity?* What is the Lord leading me to say that will lead to conviction and repentance for our lack of

fostering Biblical unity...which, arguably, can be presented as a lack of love for God's church. Ouch!

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- D. Simply put, this is a massive topic, with very real eternal implications facing a people that struggle to receive and grow in Christ. Some have created lists (there are a couple of examples on the screens now) noting essentials of the faith and even secondary almost-essentials of faith, with the idea being that ONLY the ESSENTIAL list items are things Christians must agree upon to actually be brothers and sisters in Christ.
- E. The problem is that the best lies are built on a foundation of truth. As has always been the case, corrupting doctrine often enters the church as a ray of light blinding us to its intention of concealing or even destroying the authority of Christ and the life found only in His word. These corruptions often sound agreeable enough or for some may resonate with great emotional confirmation...until (and if) we dig in further.
- F. So, where does one go with this? What if we agree on most things? What if we agree about all of the things from man-generated "essential beliefs" lists, but they believe someone can be saved out of hell? What if we agree on all of the "essential" things, BUT they believe in Replacement theology, Dominion theology AND the continuing offices of Apostleship and Prophets? While these things do not show up on any essentials list, we simply MUST NOT fellowship with people calling themselves Christians that insist on walking in and proselyting such clear Scriptural error.
- G. Of course, most of us don't like confrontation so it's easier to look the other way. Plus, we might think, what if they are right? And questions about authority, influence, and consequences start to invade our thoughts as we consider whether to share and stand on what I believe Scripture teaches. What's more, I don't want to risk offending God by saying something bad about His church.

H. So again, what can I say to bring God's laser point on this topic of unity. *We are fools if we don't believe we are in the middle of the battlefield for the souls of mankind (including our own) and the glory of either Satan or Jesus.* We are to be vigilant and sober (**1 Peter 5:8**) in testing the spirits (**1 John 4:1**) in obeying Christ ALWAYS. *We are not to pick a few items as a litmus test for fellowship because all of Scripture is inspired, inerrant, infallible, and authoritative.* We are to join together in the supernatural unity of Christ, being His children, His ambassadors, and strengthened by and living out the treasures of His wisdom and knowledge in love and grace.

Please do NOT hear that we must be in lockstep theologically for there are some things that we don't fully grasp and so the importance of grace and unity come front-and-center. *Yet, as Paul is making clear, this does not excuse us to look the other way when God's authority, including the introduction of heretical teaching, is being undermined.*

4. In verses 4-5, Paul speaks to an explicit problem the Colossae church was facing, deception through the use of persuasive or attractive words. *With the advent of TV, Radio, and the "smart phone" (with its ubiquitous access to social media platforms), we are all but one click away from words that resonate in our hearts and put another brick in the construction of our worldview either for or against Christ.*

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- A. The pressure of our own pride, sensuality, and selfishness is a formidable opponent. *As all are prone to wander, it just takes a pinch of well-timed and well-placed worldly leaven for one to lose track of his/her privileges, duties, and responsibilities as a child of God.* Not only are we prone to persuasive words, but Satan and his world system purpose to place great temptations on whatever roads we travel.
 - i. So Paul tells the [Aikenites, I mean] Colossians to stay together, being made steadfast in their faith through the supernatural unity offered through Christ's sacrificial love

that we may attain the riches of His knowledge and wisdom. For it is ONLY through the power of God Himself that our church will bear witness of the One offering mankind eternal hope.

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- B. While we haven't gotten there quite yet, a brief peak ahead offers us a powerful "how" to defeat the deception we can so easily fall prey too as we listen to the chatter of the world. We are to welcome, love, watch, preach, teach, and disciple the Gospel, and pray for others as we grow in the wisdom and knowledge of the Lord being, AS WE READ IN COLOSSIANS 2:6-7, rooted and built up in Him as we are firmly established in our faith.

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III. Colossians 2:6-10: A Clarion Call

1. The first thing we note here is Paul's reminder of the joyous thanks we find in the certainty of faith in Christ. If Paul were preaching a message, he could well have said it this way:
 - A. Brothers and sisters in [Aiken, I mean] Colossae, you have come to faith by the power of Christ Jesus, your Lord. It is by this same faith and NO other, that you are made complete.
 - B. People of Aiken, it is only by faith in Christ that One may be made complete. So, confess Him as your Lord and enter into the peace of His presence.
2. We also note Paul's use of a living tree to describe our ever maturing faith...we are to have our roots firmly in the word of God drawing the words of life from His knowledge and wisdom, that our faith may be strengthened for the storms and opportunities yet to come. We are be vigilant as to where our roots go and that we only drink of the wellhead of the living water that is Christ, that our branches and limbs may be strong and we may plant healthy seeds that yet more trees may grow!

3. In v8, Paul offers the Colossians yet another great warning. It's important for us to grasp that he does this because it's needed – both in that day and for us today. You see, the Gnostic cult in Colossae was making a grand bargain with the Saints having their Jesus AND the blessing of the secret knowledge that promised them yet greater riches. What's more, that Paul wrote the letter is a clear indication that at least some number of them were falling prey to the human reasoning being offered.

A. This is NO DIFFERENT IN OUR DAY. Cults abound and errant doctrine is widespread within the church. Let me offer you some examples. There are those saying homosexuality, gender identification, identifying as an animal, that the offices of Apostleship and Prophets are for today, that God's eternal promises to Israel in the OT have been given, instead, to the church or that Jesus Himself received these promises so they are no more, that Christians must rule all parts of culture for Christ to return, that all people will be saved out of hell, that there are many ways to heaven, that truth is a construction of man so there actually is no certain, higher truth given by God, that God wants us all to be wealthy and so we can be with just the right prayers (and often some well-placed donations), that man can deliver man from demons using some man-made prescriptive process loosely connected to Scripture, and that mankind can be the agents of our own transformation into goodness, and there is much, much more. This is why we must be unified in being rooted and built up in Christ and His word, by His Spirit, and in obedience to the Father's will.

B. Too often we think and act in apathy or as though we could never be cheated through man philosophy and deceit. Too often the pressures to conform to culture and family pressures leads us to accept unrighteousness thinking we are still good with God. Further, we are all prone to hold strongly to the traditions of man that speak to our hearts in promising a comfortable life in the here-and-now. Any and all of these reasons, along with others shout that it is when we get unmoored from the word of God that the traditions of man and

the lies of the enemy take root and we organize God around our lives instead of our lives according to His word.

4. Verses 8-9 offer us a clear picture of the two contrasting camps. Are you for God (eternal victory) or not (eternally lost)? **Will you purpose to grow and rely upon Godly knowledge and wisdom to refute the things of mankind and the enemy** OR will you succumb to the philosophies and empty deceits that cause ever greater separation from God?

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IV. Closing: Jesus, the Life Giver

1. Paul is clear hear. **There is only One that can complete us.** So what say you? **Yes to the Life Giver, Jesus** OR yes to all the deceptions of mankind and the temptations of Satan?
2. Paul's words are both a reminder and invitation for us to receive and walk in the treasure of the knowledge and wisdom of Christ found in His word. **Together, in Biblical love and unity, we are to reject all the lies of the enemy and the world, instead being rooted and built up in Jesus, having a steadfast and maturing faith.**

Colossians 2:1-10

Christ is All We Need

I. Introduction: One Name

- Loving the Church

Additional Scripture References: Re 3:14-22

I. Colossians 2:1-5: Rejoicing, for the Battle is Won

- 3 reasons for Paul's agonizing heart – Encouragement, supernatural unity, and the knowledge/appropriating God's promises.
- Overcoming the deception of the world and the enemy.
- The pressure of our own pride, sensuality, and selfishness is a formidable opponent.

Additional Scripture References: 1 Co 8:1-2; Eph 3:14-2, 4:1-6; 1 Pe 5:8; 1 Jn 4:1

II. Colossians 2:6-10: A Clarion Call

- Completed by faith in Christ alone
- Being rooted in God's word.
- Cults abound and errant doctrine is widespread within the church today.

III. Closing: Jesus, the Life Giver

5-Day Devotional Colossians 2:1-10 Christ is All We Need

Day 1: The Treasure of Christ Alone

Reading: Co 2:1-3

Devotional: Paul's heart agonized for believers to find their completeness in Christ alone. In a world offering countless paths to fulfillment—special knowledge, religious traditions, self-help philosophies—the apostle points us to one treasure: Jesus. All the wisdom and knowledge we need for life and godliness are hidden in Him. We don't need Jesus plus something else. Not Jesus plus our achievements, our rituals, or our secret insights. Just Jesus. This is wonderfully liberating news. Eternal life isn't found through exhausting spiritual labor or exclusive knowledge, but through simple faith in Christ.

Today, ask yourself: Am I seeking completeness in Christ alone, or am I adding requirements that God never intended? Rest in the sufficiency of Jesus.

Day 2: Rooted and Built Up

Reading: Co 2:6-7

Devotional: A tree's health depends entirely on where its roots reach. If roots tap into poisoned soil, the entire tree suffers. Paul uses this imagery to describe our spiritual lives. We received Christ by faith, and we must continue growing by that same faith—rooted deeply in God's Word, drawing life from His truth alone. The storms will come. Deceptive philosophies will blow. Cultural pressures will push. But trees with deep roots stand firm.

How are you tending your spiritual roots today? Are you drinking daily from the wellspring of Scripture, or are your roots wandering toward the shallow streams of worldly wisdom? Establish yourself in God's Word through consistent reading, meditation, and obedience. Let your faith be strengthened at the roots, and you'll bear fruit that lasts.

Day 3: The Battle for Unity

Reading: Eph 4:1-6

Devotional: Biblical unity isn't optional—it's essential. Yet achieving it remains one of the church's greatest struggles. Paul pleads for believers to be "knit together in love," bound by supernatural unity that only Christ provides. This isn't shallow agreement or avoiding difficult conversations. True unity means standing together on God's Word while extending grace in non-essential matters. When offense comes, when preferences clash, when personalities conflict, our default shouldn't be to pack our bags and leave. Instead, we're called to humble ourselves, bear with one another, and pursue peace. Unity glorifies God and strengthens our witness to a fractured world.

Today, examine your heart: Are you contributing to unity or division? Is there someone you need to reconcile with? Unity requires intentionality, humility, and Christ-centered love.

Day 4: Guarding Against Deception

Reading: Co 2:8-9; 1 John 4:1

Devotional: "See to it that no one takes you captive" is Paul's urgent warning. Deception rarely announces itself. It comes through persuasive words, attractive promises, and teachings that sound almost right. In our information-saturated age, we're one click away from ideas that subtly undermine God's authority. False teaching often begins with truth, then twists it just enough to lead us astray.

The antidote? Know God's Word deeply. Test every teaching against Scripture. Stay alert and sober-minded. Don't assume you're immune to deception—we're all vulnerable when we drift from Biblical moorings. The fullness of deity dwells in Christ alone. Any teaching that diminishes His sufficiency, adds requirements to salvation, or contradicts Scripture must be rejected. Commit today to being a diligent student of God's Word, discerning truth from error.

Day 5: Complete in Christ

Reading: Co 2:9-10; Eph 3:14-19

Devotional: You are complete in Christ. Not almost complete. Not complete if you achieve more, know more, or do more. Complete. Finished. Whole. In Jesus dwells all the fullness of God, and you have been given fullness in Him. This truth demolishes every lie that says you're insufficient or that Jesus isn't enough. The world offers endless prescriptions for wholeness—success, relationships, experiences, knowledge—but they all fall short.

Only Christ satisfies the deepest longings of your soul. Paul prayed that believers would grasp the incomprehensible love of Christ and be filled with God's fullness. This is your inheritance as His child. Stop striving for completeness through human effort. Rest in what Christ has already accomplished. You are fully loved, fully accepted, and fully complete in Him. Walk in that victory today.

Small Group Study Guide

Colossians 2:1-10

Christ is All We Need

Opening Prayer: Begin your time together by asking God to unify your hearts, open your minds to His truth, and give you courage to apply what you learn.

Ice Breaker: Share one area of life where you've been tempted to look for "Jesus plus something else" rather than finding Christ as sufficient (career success, financial security, relationships, knowledge, etc.).

Key Takeaways: Query the group for takeaways first...you may stay with one or more of those.

1. Paul's Heart for the Church - Paul agonized in prayer for believers he had never met, demonstrating a love for God's church that transcends personal connection.
2. The Danger of "Jesus Plus" - The Colossian church faced pressure to add special knowledge or religious requirements to simple faith in Christ.
3. Supernatural Unity - Biblical unity isn't optional; it's a supernatural bond that comes from being "knit together in love" through Christ.
4. Christ Contains All Treasures - All the wisdom and knowledge needed for eternal life is found exclusively in Jesus (v. 3).
5. Rooted and Built Up - Spiritual maturity requires deep roots in God's Word and continual building up in faith.

Discussion Questions: Did the Holy Spirit prompt any questions with you? If so, start with those.

1. Read Colossians 2:1-3. Why does Paul describe his concern for the Colossians as a "conflict" or "struggle"? What does this reveal about spiritual leadership?
2. Read verses 4-5. What does Paul mean by "persuasive words" or "attractive words"? What modern equivalents do we face today?
3. Read verses 6-7. What does it mean practically to "walk in Christ" the same way you "received Christ"? How does the tree metaphor help us understand spiritual growth?

4. The sermon mentioned that "man-knowledge always leads mankind away from God." Why is human wisdom insufficient for spiritual life? When have you experienced this personally?
5. Paul emphasizes unity repeatedly throughout his letters. Why is unity so difficult to maintain in the church? What are the biggest threats to unity you've observed?
6. First, read the "essential beliefs" discussion from the sermon. How do we balance grace for secondary issues while standing firm on core biblical truths? Where do you struggle with this balance?
7. The sermon states: "We organize God around our lives instead of our lives according to His word." What does this look like in practice? Share an example from your own life.
8. The sermon lists several modern deceptions (prosperity gospel, universalism, cultural Christianity, etc.). Which of these have you encountered? How did you respond?
9. First, read verse 8. What "philosophies and empty deceits" are most attractive or dangerous in our current culture? How can we protect ourselves and our families?
10. On a scale of 1-10, how "rooted and built up" in Christ do you feel right now? What's contributing to that number?

Practical Applications: Query the group for applications first...you may explore one of more of those.

This Week's Challenge: Choose one of the following to practice this week:

1. Option 1: Root Yourself
 - Commit to 15 minutes daily in God's Word (consider studying Colossians 2:6-15 throughout the week)
 - Journal about what "treasures of wisdom and knowledge" you discover in Christ
2. Option 2: Pursue Unity
 - Identify one relationship in the church that needs reconciliation or strengthening
 - Take a concrete step toward biblical unity (conversation, apology, prayer, etc.)
3. Option 3: Examine Your Additions

- List areas where you might be practicing "Jesus plus" Christianity
 - Confess these to God and recommit to Christ's sufficiency
4. Option 4: Guard Against Deception
- Identify one source of teaching/influence in your life (podcast, social media, book, etc.)
 - Evaluate it against Scripture. Does it point to Christ's sufficiency or add requirements?

Group Activity: As a group, discuss:

1. What are we doing well as a church/group that fosters biblical unity?
2. Where do we see threats to unity (gossip, consumerism, unaddressed conflict)?
3. What's one practical thing our group can do to model supernatural unity to others?

Prayer Focus: Spend extended time praying for:

1. Your Church: That it would be rooted in Christ alone and unified in supernatural love
2. Discernment: For wisdom to recognize and reject deceptive teaching
3. Missionaries: Like Paul prayed for churches he'd never visited, pray for missionaries your church supports
4. Personal Completeness: That each member would find their completeness in Christ alone
5. Cultural Pressures: For strength to resist conforming to worldly philosophies

This Weeks Memory Verse

Colossians 2:6-7, NKJV: " As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, ⁷ rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving."

Looking Ahead

Next week, read Colossians 2:11-23 in preparation for the next study. Consider: What does it mean that Christ has "disarmed the powers and authorities"?

Closing Thought

"It has always been but one Name, one confession, one act of receiving the gift of God's grace." Christ is sufficient. Christ is complete. Christ is all we need.

Discussion Questions

Colossians 2:1-10

Christ is All We Need

1. In what ways do we sometimes seek 'Jesus-plus-something-else' in our own spiritual lives, adding human requirements or special knowledge to the sufficiency of Christ?
2. Paul demonstrates a passionate love for churches he never planted or even visited. How does this challenge our own commitment to the broader body of Christ beyond our local congregation?
3. What are the specific areas in your life where you struggle to believe that Christ alone is truly enough, and what worldly knowledge or wisdom are you tempted to rely on instead?
4. The sermon mentions that church people often agree with unity until they are offended. What prevents us from pursuing reconciliation and maintaining the supernatural unity Christ offers?
5. How can we distinguish between secondary theological differences where grace is needed and fundamental doctrinal errors that undermine the authority of Christ and Scripture?
6. Paul warns against being taken captive by persuasive words and human philosophy. What voices or influences in your life through media, relationships, or culture are subtly shaping your worldview away from Scripture?
7. Using the metaphor of a tree with roots, how deeply are your roots planted in God's Word, and what practical steps can you take to ensure you are drawing from the wellhead of living water?
8. The sermon lists various modern doctrinal errors infiltrating the church. Which of these have you encountered, and how equipped do you feel to lovingly but firmly refute them with Scripture?
9. What does it mean practically to organize our lives according to God's Word rather than organizing God around our comfortable lives and cultural expectations?
10. Paul emphasizes being rooted, built up, and established in faith together as a body. How can your church community better embody this mutual strengthening against deception and worldly pressures?

Dinner Conversation Starters

Colossians 2:1-10

Christ is All We Need

1. Understanding Faith and Knowledge

In the sermon, it was mentioned that all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are found in Christ. How can we as a family seek to deepen our understanding of faith through our daily activities and interactions?

2. The Importance of Unity

Paul emphasizes the need for unity among believers. What are some practical ways we, as a family, can support and maintain unity within our community or church?

3. Facing Modern Temptations

The sermon talks about modern temptations and misleading doctrines. What are some current societal pressures or beliefs that might challenge our faith, and how can we guard against them?

4. Living Out Our Faith

The analogy of a tree with roots in God's word was used to describe growing in faith. In what ways can we ensure that our family 'tree' is deeply rooted in meaningful practices and traditions that reflect our faith?

5. Paul's Love for the Church

Paul's love for the church was evident, regardless of his personal connection to it. How do we show love and commitment to our church community, and why do you think this is important for our family and others?

Family Conversation guide for Children & Early Teens

Colossians 2:1-10

Christ is All We Need

Here are age-specific application points with related discussion questions for families, drawing on the sermon's principles:

AGES 5-7: SIMPLIFYING THE MESSAGE APPLICATION POINTS

1. **Sharing and Caring:** Teach kids the importance of helping and being kind to others, reflecting the unity that Paul talked about.
2. **Recognizing Truth:** Introduce simple stories or parables that illustrate honesty and truthfulness.
3. **Praying Together:** Encourage children to pray for their friends and family, fostering a sense of community.

Discussion Questions:

1. How can we be good friends to others just like Paul loved the church?
2. Can you share a time when telling the truth helped someone? How did it make you feel?
3. Who would you like to pray for tonight and why?

AGES 8-12: BUILDING UNDERSTANDING APPLICATION POINTS

1. **Friendship Circle:** Help children identify qualities of a good friend and encourage choosing friendships that build them up in positive ways.
2. **Standing Firm in Values:** Discuss scenarios where they might feel pressured to go against family values and how to handle them.
3. **Digital Awareness:** Start conversations on safe internet practices, emphasizing the importance of discerning truth online.

Discussion Questions:

1. What makes a good friend at school or in your activities? How can you be that kind of friend?
2. Has anyone ever asked you to do something you felt wasn't right? How did you respond, or how do you think you should respond?
3. When you see something online that makes you uncomfortable or seems wrong, what should you do?

AGES 11-15: DEEPENING THE CONNECTION APPLICATION POINTS

1. Peer Influence: Encourage teens to consider how peer pressure might influence their choices and reinforce the importance of making decisions aligned with their faith.
2. Discernment Online: Equip teens with strategies to evaluate the credibility of information online and to recognize potentially harmful content.
3. Constructive Conversations: Train teens to engage in discussions or disagreements respectfully and constructively, mirroring the unity Paul advocated.

Discussion Questions:

1. Think about a time when friends influenced your decision. How can you ensure that your choices reflect your values and beliefs?
2. What steps can you take to verify if something you read or see online is true?
3. How do you handle disagreements with friends or family while still maintaining respect and love? Can you think of an example where you saw this in action?

Tips for Parents

- Be patient and listen: Give your child time to think and respond.
- Relate to everyday life: Use real-life examples and stories familiar to your child to make abstract concepts more tangible.
- Encourage questions: Let your son or daughter know it's okay to ask questions, even if things don't make sense right away.
- Share personal insights: Tell a personal story about a time you experienced these themes, adapting as needed for age appropriateness.

Family Conversation Guide for Gen Z

Colossians 2:1-10

Christ is All We Need

DEEPENING THE CONNECTION APPLICATION POINTS WITH GENZ

1. Authenticity in Group Settings

Application Point: In a culture that often encourages conformity, stay rooted in your identity in Christ. Colossians 2:6-7 reminds us to walk with Him and be rooted and built up in faith.

Scenario: During group projects or peer gatherings, there may be pressure to go along with the majority. Remember Romans 12:2, which encourages transformation by renewing your mind rather than conforming. Ask yourself: "Is this action or decision honoring God and my faith?"

2. Navigating Relationships

Application Point: Value relationships that are "knit together in love" (Colossians 2:2), aiming for genuine connections that reflect God's love, as emphasized by Paul.

Scenario: When faced with the challenge of excluding someone to "fit in" or dealing with peer drama, reflect on 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 about love being patient and kind. Consider how you can be inviting and demonstrate Godly love in your friendships.

3. Discernment in Digital Spaces

Application Point: Be vigilant about the content you consume online. Colossians 2:8 warns against being deceived by hollow and deceptive philosophy.

Scenario: While scrolling through social media or engaging in digital platforms, use Philippians 4:8 as a guiding principle: focus on what is true, noble, and praiseworthy. Before sharing or reacting, ask: "Does this align with the truth of Scripture?"

These points can help Gen Z apply the sermon's teachings in their everyday lives, encouraging them to be mindful, authentic, and discerning in their interactions and choices.