

Leader's Guide

Heavenly Minded, Earthly Good

Colossians 3:1-17

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Goal of This Discussion

The goal of this discussion is to help group members honestly evaluate what is shaping their identity, thoughts, relationships, and daily lives. Through Colossians 3, this conversation invites people to recognize both the security they already have in Christ and the ongoing call to become more like Him in attitude, character, and action. As the group processes together, encourage people to move beyond surface-level answers toward practical, Spirit-led transformation that strengthens their relationships, their church family, and their witness to others.

Discussion Questions

1. When you think about the phrase “set your minds on things above,” what tends to pull your focus most toward earthly things in everyday life?

Follow-Up Prompts

- What competes most for your attention right now?
- What consumes your thoughts when you're stressed or tired?
- Are there certain environments or rhythms that make it harder to focus on Jesus?
- What helps re-center your attention on God?

Additional Scriptures

- Matthew 6:19-21
- Romans 12:2
- Hebrews 12:1-2

Leader Notes

This question helps ease people into conversation while identifying common struggles. Encourage practical answers instead of “church answers.” The goal is to recognize that everyone battles distraction and misplaced focus. Help the group see that setting our minds on Christ is intentional, not automatic.

2. The message talked about building identity around accomplishments, approval, or personal success instead of Christ. What are some things people commonly use to define their worth, and why do those things appeal to us?

Follow-Up Prompts

- What makes achievement or approval so tempting?
- How does social media or comparison affect identity?
- When do you most feel pressure to “prove yourself”?
- How would life look different if we truly believed our identity was secure in Christ?

Additional Scriptures

- Galatians 2:19-21
- 2 Corinthians 5:14-17

Leader Notes

Keep this question somewhat outward-focused at first (“people commonly use...”), then gently guide it toward personal reflection if the group is comfortable. The sermon emphasized that our lives are “hidden with Christ,” meaning our identity is secure before we accomplish anything. Remind the group that accomplishments themselves are not wrong; the issue is when they become the source of identity or worth.

3. Which of the qualities in Colossians 3 — compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, forgiveness, or love — comes most naturally to you right now? Which one feels most difficult or stretching in this season of life?

Follow-Up Prompts

- Why do you think that quality feels difficult right now?
- Which quality do you think our culture struggles with most?
- What would growth in that area practically look like this week?

Additional Scriptures

- Galatians 5:18-26
- Philippians 2:3-5
- Ephesians 4:1-3

4. The sermon challenged us to notice both the “big” sins and the more relational sins like anger, bitterness, slander, or unforgiveness. Is there a relationship, attitude, or

recurring thought pattern that God may be asking you to surrender or address more honestly?

Follow-Up Prompts

- Is there a recurring frustration or resentment that keeps surfacing?
- Are there conversations you've avoided or wounds you've ignored?
- How do anger or bitterness quietly affect relationships?
- What makes forgiveness difficult?

Additional Scriptures

- Ephesians 4:26-32
- James 1:19-20
- Hebrews 12:14-15
- Matthew 6:14-15

5. If strengthening the family starts with personal transformation, what is one practical step you can take this week to become more like Jesus in your home, workplace, friendships, or church community? How can this group encourage or support you in that step?

Follow-Up Prompts

- Is there a habit you need to begin or stop?
- Is there someone you need to encourage, forgive, or reconcile with?
- What would it look like to intentionally "put on" compassion or patience this week?
- How can we pray for you specifically?

Additional Scriptures

- James 1:22
- Micah 6:8
- John 13:34-35

Leader Notes

This final question helps the group move toward application and accountability. Encourage specific action steps instead of vague intentions. Examples could include apologizing to someone, spending intentional time in prayer, choosing gentleness in a stressful relationship, or practicing gratitude instead of criticism. End the discussion by inviting the group to pray for one another's next steps.