



DISCUSSION GUIDE

Colossians - How the church REALLY works and grows

GETTING STARTED

Where have you seen suffering and sacrifice pay dividends in your life? In other words, how is sacrifice and suffering tied to really making a difference?

QUICK REACTIONS FROM THE MESSAGE

How would you summarize/paraphrase the message in your own words?

What point/idea resonated most with you? Why?

How does what Paul say about the supremacy of Christ in 1:15-20 frame Paul's mission and ambition for the church? Why is this important?

How can we mistake what really makes a church work and grow apart from what Paul says? Why?

If we were to emulate Paul's prescription for growing the church...

In shared suffering and sacrifice for the gospel tied to our bodies, Christ's body and the church body

Taking responsibility for what has been revealed to us in Christ

Sharing our faith from the outflow of Christ in me

For me to struggle/agonize to be tied together in love and grow in confidence in Christ

What would I need to stop, start or do differently?

EXPLORE THE PASSAGE [Colossians 1:24-2:5]

(Yes, these questions can seem silly, however, good discussion and interpretation of the Bible begins with having a proper understanding of the basic facts; who, what, when, and where in the text.) Work through this quickly, the answers are fairly obvious.

Why did Paul rejoice? (1:24)

What did Paul do for the sake of the church? (1:24)

What commission did God give Paul? (1:25)

To what mystery did Paul refer? (1:26)

To whom had God chosen to make known a mystery? (1:27)

How did Paul help believers become spiritually mature? (1:28-29)

What kind of effort did Paul expend in his ministry? (1:29)

What did Paul want his audience to know? (2:1)

What was Paul's stated purpose? (2:2-3)

What is hidden in Christ? (2:3)

How would a commitment to the full knowledge of Christ protect the Colossians? (2:4)

How was Paul unified with the church at Colosse? (2:4)

What delighted Paul? (2:5)

QUESTIONS THAT HELP US UNDERSTAND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TEXT

Paul had never met the Colossian Christians; how could he have suffered for them?

How is suffering an essential part of the Christian life?

Why did Paul work so hard for the Colossians?

What results did Paul expect from his work for the sake of the gospel?

What can you do for the church of Christ?

What makes a church encouraged and united?

What does it mean, if being deceived by well crafted arguments involves thinking as a Christian that following Jesus means never having to suffer or sacrifice, taking responsibility, sharing our faith, and all of us struggling for the church to be tied together in love and growing in Christ-centered confidence (Christ is enough).

What can we do to grow in our understanding of Christ?

What can you do to grow in your understanding of Christ?

APPLY THE PASSAGE

What do we learn about God and about ourselves in this passage?

What do you need to stop, start or do differently as a result of reading this passage?

How can we pray for each other?