

DISCUSSION NOTES

APRIL 28, 2019

Start by praying and asking for God's help as you seek to grow as authentic followers of Jesus.

GETTING STARTED

1. How many comedy movies can you name where an adult acts like a child or a child gets trapped in a grown up person's body? Why do you think we find these situations funny?

LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD

2. Read Colossians 2:1-15 (on the back of this page). Make 5-7 quick observations. What's the big idea? Where is the conflict? What is encouraging? What's difficult to understand?

3. On the printout of Colossians 2:1-15 (on the back of this page), underline or highlight every word or phrase that refers to Christ, including names, titles and pronouns (like "him"). How many did you find in these 15 verses?

What conclusion might you reach from this fact?

4. In verse 3 and verse 8, we see clear warnings that are given to Christ-followers. What are the specific warnings? What do you think they refer to? How are they "not according to Christ" or hostile to Christ?

How might you see these dangers playing out in our time and place?

5. In verses 9–15, what defense or solution does Paul provide to these dangers — how does the truth about Jesus and the gospel confront the empty ideas of godless men? How do these verses speak to our understanding of the world?

LIVING IT OUT

6. Where in this passage (Col. 2:1-15) can you see the strength, stability, goodness, togetherness, and victory of the church community? In a world where Christianity will always be contested, how do these verses strengthen us and give us hope?

7. In Colossians 2:6-7, why is it important that we receive Jesus as *both* Christ (anointed Savior) *and* Lord? How are both important to our understanding of what it means to walk in him daily?

8. Colossians 2:6-7 describes an experience of a life that is rooted in him, built up in him, established in the faith, and taught the deep truth of Christ. What implications does this have for the mission of the church?

9. Read Hebrews 5:11—6:1 and Colossians 1:28. Do you feel like you are growing toward spiritual maturity in this season of your life? Where specifically are you seeing growth or lack of it?

10. What is one thing from this lesson that you want to apply to your life and live out this week?

COLOSSIANS 2

1 For I want you to know how great a struggle I have for you and for those at Laodicea and for all who have not seen me face to face, 2 that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ, 3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. 4 I say this in order that no one may delude you with plausible arguments. 5 For though I am absent in body, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the firmness of your faith in Christ.

6 Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, 7 rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

8 See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. 9 For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, 10 and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority. 11 In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, 12 having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. 13 And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, 14 by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. 15 He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

English Standard Version (ESV)