



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Colossians: Rescued. Redeemed. Rooted.

Week 3 - Reconciled

QUESTION 1

This week we continued our sermon series on the book of Colossians. Begin your group time by reading the scripture out loud. **Colossians 1:15-23** **The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶ For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷ He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. ¹⁹ For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross. ²¹ Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. ²² But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation— ²³ if you continue in your faith, established and firm, and do not move from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant.** Each member of the group, please share one thing from the scripture that stands out to you.

QUESTION 2

One of the main themes of this scripture is that Jesus is supreme and should be first in all things. As you consider this, read the scriptures that support this idea. **Colossians 1:17-18** **He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.** Jesus is to be first, and we should seek Him and His kingdom above all else. **Matthew 6:33** **But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.** C.S. Lewis, in a letter to a friend, said it like this: *"Put first things first and you get second things thrown in: put second things first & you lose both first and second things."* Take some time as a group to reflect on the idea that Jesus should be first in everything. And that we should be seeking Him first. Be sure to include your thoughts on the quote, and if you're courageous enough, discuss what you are tempted to put in first place instead of Jesus.

QUESTION 3

Another main theme of this passage is that Jesus, through His death on the cross and the shedding of His blood, has paved the way to reconcile all things. **Colossians 1:19-20 For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.** In English, to reconcile means to restore to friendship or harmony. However, the Greek word used here is actually much stronger. There are two ancient Greek words for reconciliation used in the Bible. The first one is milder and refers to restoring a relationship. The second is much more dramatic and describes a once-and-for-all reconciliation. Paul chooses the more intense word in verses 20 and 21, indicating that God has made a way to reconcile all things—things in heaven and on earth—so they can be rightfully restored into a relationship with Him because of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. As amazing as that may be, verses 21 and 22 bring his point home by personalizing it. **Colossians 1:21-22 Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior.**²² **But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation.** Take some time as a group to discuss the concept of reconciliation. Be sure to focus on verses 21 and 22. Please touch on what it means to be reconciled and have peace with God restored. Also, please discuss what it means to be holy in His sight without blemish and free from accusation. How hard is it for you to see yourself in that light? How would it affect you if you truly believed these verses?

QUESTION 4

In verse 23, Paul provides a clear understanding of how we can be confident that we have been reconciled. Our confidence comes as we continue in the faith. Paul wants to make sure no one is confused about God's reconciliation. When you are truly reconciled, you will keep walking in the faith. **Colossians 1:23** states: **"if you continue in your faith, established and firm, and do not move from the hope held out in the gospel."** If you waver in doubt—sometimes proclaiming Jesus, and other times saying you don't believe in God—you cannot believe that you have truly received reconciliation. The evidence of your relationship with God is your ongoing faith, which will motivate you to keep seeking Him. That's my encouragement for you: let your faith in Christ continue to drive you to seek Christ first. Make sure to discuss verse 23 as a group. How do you interpret the word "continue"? What does it look like for you to keep going and for your faith to stay rooted in the hope held out in the gospel? What will be the enduring impact of this scripture on your life?