

Week 4 (February 5) Colossians 3:1-17 Rules for Holy Living

Extra info:

Remind group members of the in-depth workshop on Colossians at the church on this Saturday, Feb. 11. 9-noon Dr. Edwards, President and Dean of North Park Theological Seminary will lead us in an interactive and exegetical approach to studying God's Word. Lunch and childcare provided. \$15 Scholarships available. Sign up online.

"Singing Hymns"

The people of God are a people of song. Moses and Miriam sang following the Exodus; at the reign of God in the time to come, new songs will be sung. God is the recipient of these songs, yet God is also the one who provides and motivates the song. The Wesleys (Charles and John) acknowledged the triune God as both the source of inspiration and the subject for the thousands of hymns they produced. Hymn singing has always been a part of worship, whether with the family, in small groups, or in the congregation. Hymns convey our adoration, thanksgiving, and gratitude to God. Hymns allow us to express to God our own condition: the depth of our longing after God, our petitions and prayers, our joys and triumphs, our lamentation and sorrow. Hymns and the exercise of singing can bring about, cultivate, and increase the necessary Christian virtues of faith, hope, and love. (excerpt from The Wesley Study Bible)

If you are so inclined, prepare for and reserve 3-5 minutes at the end of today's session to sing a psalm, hymn or spiritual song of your choosing together as mentioned in verse 16.

Tip for today's lesson: You may want to consider using a white board or chart to list items for the various comparisons/contrasts and lists in today's questions.

NOTE: At the beginning of prayer time, begin discussing as a group if you would like to continue your small group and if so, what you would like to study. Let Sheri Price sprice@arvadacovenant.org know so we can make the necessary updates to the website as soon as this study ends.

Colossians 3:1-17

Icebreaker question: For those of you who heard the sermon this Sunday, what resonated with you most?

Verses 1-4

1. What is the positive answer to the problem of “worldly” regulations? (compare 2:20 to 3:1-4) In other words, what should one who has been raised with Christ focus on to grow in our spiritual life? Contrast that to the things that don’t lead to growth. (2:16-23)
2. How is setting your heart and mind on Christ related to what he has already done for us (v1) and to what he will do for us (v4)?

Verses 5-11

3. What sins does Paul list?
4. What is God’s attitude toward these sins?
5. What is your attitude towards these sins? Food for thought: Are any of these sins in your life now?
6. Compare the old nature vs new nature. What results, positive and negative, should follow from being “raised with Christ” What should the experience make us a) do and b) stop doing?

Verses 12-17

7. Make a list from these verses of characteristics of an active, holy life.
 - Which ones do you have a handle on?
 - Which ones do you need to keep working on?
8. What is the example given for forgiving one another?
9. In what two places is the peace of Christ to rule?
10. What is the standard for all your actions?