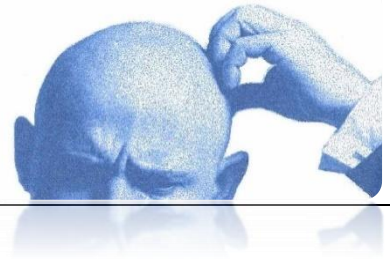


From Above

Small Group Questions



The following questions are intended to start conversations.

Use only the ones your group finds helpful. Explore others as they come up.

- Read **Colossians 2:9-15**. Although this text is from last week, hear again what Paul says about Jesus. What is most surprising to you? Why?
- Read **Colossians 3:1-4**. What does it mean to set your heart and mind on things above?
- In the next section, Paul contrasts things that “belong to the earthly nature” with ways of living that reflect Jesus. How are these lists connected to the previous section (about being rooted in Jesus and setting our mind on things above)?
- Jesus taught that “no good tree bears bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. Each tree is recognized by its own fruit.” (Luke 6:46). How is Paul expanding this idea here?
- As you consider the logic of this letter (Christ is the image of God >> Christ lives in you >> continue to live your lives in him, being rooted and strengthened), how does Paul imagine that we clothe ourselves with compassion and kindness? In other words, is this something we do or is this something that is formed in us? What difference does this perspective make?
- Verse 13 invites us to forgive one another. This is easy to say and difficult to do. What makes this difficult? Paul connects forgiving others with being forgiven, as does Jesus (see **Matthew 18:21-35**). What is important about this connection?
- What does it mean to “let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.” (v. 16) How can we do this?
- Consider Mary, the mother of Jesus. The word of God was literally formed in her and then embodied through her. Re-read **Colossians 3:16-17**. In what way is Mary the model of what God desires to do in each of us? How might our response be like hers (Luke 1:38)?
- In an age of increasing division, how might “the peace of Christ” rule in our hearts (v. 15)?