

Colossians 3:1-11

Questions

1. What are some things in your life that you set your heart on or that you put your whole heart into? In other words, what are you passionate about? Examples: School, Friends, Family, Church, Sports, God, etc...
2. Read Colossians 3:1-11. What do you think Paul means by *things above* and *earthly things* (vv. 1-2)?
3. What does it mean to be raised with Christ?
4. How can we set our hearts and minds on things above rather than on earthly things?
In what current situation are you facing this choice?
5. What reasons and incentives does Paul give us for having this kind of orientation (vv. 1, 3-4)?
6. What do the things we are to "put to death" have in common (v. 5)?
7. What does it mean to put something to death? What is the most effective way to put to death the things of the flesh?
8. Why do you think greed is viewed as idolatry (vv. 5-7)?
9. Are there any sins present in your life right now that could be considered as idolatry?
10. How can we keep God's perspective on immorality and greed when our culture accepts them as the norm?
11. Our old ways of reacting are compared to a garment we took off at conversion (vv. 8-10). Why is each type of behavior inconsistent with our new life in Christ?
12. What has been the effect on you and others when you have fallen back into these old motives or actions (vv. 5, 8-9)?
13. Although we may still struggle with these sins, what resources for change do we now have (vv. 9-11)?
How are these resources better than determination and "trying harder"?
14. In verse 11 Paul lists the distressing divisions between people in the Colossian culture. How would becoming aware of Christ in other Christians help us to eliminate our cultural divisions?
15. Do you ever see cultural divisions among Christians today? What can and should be done to prevent this?
16. Paul has shown the necessary blending of our emotions, mind and will in order to live like people who have been raised with Christ. Pray for help in the area where you feel weak. Spend time thanking God for the changes he has already made in you.