

Community Groups

Sermon Discussion Guide

February 15th, 2026 | The Letter to the Colossians

Prayer

Take time before discussion to take prayer requests and pray for each member of the group that requests prayer.

Read Colossians 3:1-7 out loud as a group.

1. Paul encourages us that because of Christ's work we are now raised and seated with Christ. How does this truth shape who you are becoming? How can we practically "keep seeking the things that are above"?

As you guide this discussion, emphasize that being raised with Christ reshapes our identity before it reshapes our behavior. Remember, we live from victory, not for it. Help the group see that seeking things above is a daily reorientation of our hearts toward Christ's values, priorities, and purposes. Invite them to name practical disciplines like prayer, Scripture, and obedience that keep their focus aligned with Him.

2. Sin ultimately is misplaced worship and affection which amounts to idolatry. What can we often tend to replace worship and affection to Christ with?

You can help the group recognize that idols are often good things elevated to ultimate things (success, comfort, relationships, approval, or control). Encourage honesty by framing this as a heart-level issue rather than just outward actions. Create space for reflection on what captures their attention, affection, and trust most consistently.

3. We are called to resist sinful desires by refusing to feed them and replace them with Christ-centered affection. In what ways can we starve what feeds our old nature?

As you lead, highlight that starvation involves setting intentional limits like cutting off influences, habits, or thought patterns that fuel sin. Pair this with replacement, reminding the group that emptying without filling leads to frustration. Encourage them to think about what Christ-centered practices can redirect their desires toward what gives true life.

Read Colossians 3:8-11 out loud as a group.

4. The idols that we protect become the sin that we produce. What are some indicators of idols we have allowed in our hearts?

Guide the group to look for patterns rather than isolated failures. Strong emotional reactions, defensiveness, anxiety, or compromise often reveal hidden idols. Help them understand that idols surface when something other than Christ feels essential to our peace or worth. Keep the tone invitational, not accusatory.

5. Verse 10 speaks of putting on the “new self.” How is spiritual growth more about transformation than just behavior modification?

You can point out that behavior modification focuses on external change, while transformation begins with a renewed identity and heart. Help the group see that the gospel doesn't just tell us to try harder but invites us to live differently because we are being made new in Christ. Encourage them to share how lasting change has flowed from deeper heart renewal, not mere willpower.

6. The new life in Christ is ongoing renewal. And it's deeply unifying. Earthly labels fade as Christ takes center stage. How does being “in Christ” reshape the way we see divisions like culture, background, or status? Where is this most challenging to live out?

As you guide this conversation, emphasize that unity in Christ doesn't erase differences but reorders them under a greater identity. Invite humility and prayerful honesty about where this truth is hardest to embody.

Read Colossians 3:12-17 out loud as a group.

7. Because of who we are now in Christ we are to put on new virtues. In what ways does our new identity in Christ empower us to now live differently?

Help the group see that obedience flows from freedom, not obligation. Our identity in Christ gives us both motivation and power to change. You can guide them to reflect on how forgiveness, victory over sin, and new life reshape daily choices. Reinforce that we live differently because we belong to Christ, not to earn His approval.

8. We will become like what we behold. How can we daily look to Christ, be shaped by Christ, and represent Christ to the world around us?

As you lead, stress that beholding Christ is both intentional and relational. Encourage the group to think about how daily attention shapes desires and character over time. Close by helping them connect personal transformation with visible witness, reminding them that a Christ-shaped life naturally points others to Him.