

## *Discussion Questions for Life Groups*

Read Col. 2:16-3:4, and then review the main points of the sermon outline.

1. **(Freedom from legalism)** Read Col. 2:16-17. In some churches, any man not wearing a coat and tie is in trouble! Some have been places where makeup had best not be seen on a woman's face! Many of us have experienced some form of religious legalism in which we were being judged by whether we kept the rules or guidelines featured by that group. What is your story of moving from bondage-to-rules to freedom-in-Christ? What could you do to maintain a steady grip on the freedom Christ has won for you?
2. **(Freedom from mysticism)** Read Col. 2:18-19. Have you ever wanted to be in "the inner circle" of some religious group or experience? What did you do about it, and how did your efforts work out?
3. **(Freedom from mysticism)** Read Col. 2:20-21. In the sermon we heard that, "In verse 19, the growth is corporate: there is no thought of some members growing independently." How does that statement relate to belonging to a Life Group? How does staying connected in unity with each other and the Head keep someone from being wrongly influenced by a mystical experience or a personal vision?
4. **(Freedom from asceticism)** Read Col. 2:22-23. Why is the avoidance of food or alcohol or sex or television or contact with worldly people of little value in relation to true godliness? Of what value is punishing one's physical body in order to gain in standing with God? How then do we grow in godliness?
5. **(Orient your life to Christ)** Read Col. 3:1-2. As we consider how to seek Christ and to stay focused on the things above, what areas of one's life would we expect to be affected? (See the Word Studies in the *Experiencing Christ Study Guide*, pages 66-67.)
6. **(Orient your life to Christ)** "Paul's point is not that we are supposed to think about heaven all the time, but to let Christ and the things of his realm set the values, priorities, and direction in the here and now." After reflecting on that sermon excerpt, how do you think that would work out in your own life? What changes would you expect?
7. **(Orient your life to Christ)** Read Col. 3:3-4. Why do you think Paul used phrases as dramatic as "you died with Christ" and "you have been raised with Christ" and "your life is hidden with Christ" and "you also will appear with him in glory" to describe what we obtained at salvation? How do such truths impact and motivate you to follow Christ?

## *Enrichment Study for Life Groups*

- Romans 8:5                      Which outlook are you using?  
Romans 8:12-13                The Spirit restrains sensual indulgence.  
Romans 12:4-5                 We all work together in growth.  
Ephesians 4:14                 Leave spiritual immaturity behind.

## *Heads-Up for Next Sunday*

### **God Speaks                      Psalm 19 (Rafe Wright on October 15, 2006)**

Because next weekend's sermon is on Psalm 19, we have time to work on any incomplete parts of the Colossians study. Then, on October 16th, get started on Week 6 in the *Experiencing Christ Study Guide*.

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