

2:6-15 Discussion Questions

1. Paul begins v. 6 with “therefore,” meaning that whatever he says next is because of what he has already said. In other words, this words points us back to what he has said. What are a few of the central ideas or themes that we have seen in the first part of Colossians?

2. What is Paul’s main command in v. 6?

a. According to Paul, what does this look like?

b. In which of these areas do you see the most fruit in your life?

c. In what area do you see the least fruit?

3. Paul uses the metaphor of being rooted in Christ in v. 7. What does this metaphor mean? What is it meant to communicate?

a. When in your life have you felt the most rooted in Christ?

b. Why were you rooted at that time? What were you doing? What was going on that helped you be so firmly connected to Jesus?

c. What is an area of your life where you are struggling to stay rooted in Christ, and are being tossed around?

d. What can do you be doing right now to help your roots in Him grow?

e. How can we as a small group help one another be more rooted?

4. What is the connection between “being rooted” and “abounding in thanksgiving”? How does one lead to the other?

5. What is Paul’s main concern or warning in this passage? (See v. 8.)

a. What are the two things that this deceptive and empty philosophy based upon?

b. What are man-made traditions (practices or teachings) that we are tempted to use to try and commend ourselves before other people and/or God?

c. What aspects of the world or world system do people try to serve or pursue because they have a big impact on our lives?

6. In vv. 11-15, Paul explains how Christ through the gospel addresses the various aspects of deceptive philosophy that they were struggling with.

In vv. 11-13, he explains how the spiritual circumcision we receive in Christ through baptism, is better than the physical circumcision that human traditions told them they needed to continue to practice.

In vv. 14-15, Paul explains how Jesus triumphed over the spiritual authorities (elemental spirits) that they used to serve, so that they don't need to fear or serve them anymore.

a. Which of the traditions or aspects of the world that you previously mentioned do you struggle with serving or submitting to?

b. How does Christ through the gospel address this philosophy that is threatening to take you captive?