

3:1-4 Discussion Questions

Discussion Questions

Feel free to choose what questions will be most helpful to your group to grow in their understanding of the Scripture, learn how to better read the Bible for themselves, and faithfully apply it to their lives.

1. Paul begins this new section with the bold “if . . . then” statement: “If then you have been raised with Christ” (v. 1). How does this build on what Paul has already said? What does Paul mean when he says that “we have been raised with Christ?”

a. Look at Colossians 2:11-13.

- What is this passage talking about?
- What does this passage teach us about what it means to be “raised with Christ?”

b. Look at Colossians 2:20.

- What is this passage talking about?
- How does this passage help us to understand why Paul uses the phrase “raised with Christ?”

c. So then what does it mean to be “raised with Christ?”

2. Paul goes on to explain that since we are raised with Christ then we should “seek things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.” Having experienced the *superior goodness and excellence* of Jesus, Paul exhorts us to “seek things that are above.”

a. The Greek term translated “seek” here communicates the idea of orienting oneself toward.

- What then does Paul mean here?

- What are these things that are above?
- How do we seek them?

(Hint v. 2 provides some help here.)

b. If we have already experienced the unsurpassing goodness of Jesus in what He has done for us, why do we so often struggle to seek what belongs to Him and end up seeking after lesser, earthly things?

c. What are some ways that the Lord has called you to stop seeking lesser things in the past?

d. What are some ways that He is calling you to do that right now?

3. So earlier in Colossians we saw that Paul said that we (as non-Christians) were dead but God made us alive together with Jesus (2:13). Now in v. 3, he says we (as Christians) are dead.

a. What does he mean in this case? Dead to what? (See 2:20).

b. One scholar explains that our being dead to the elemental spirits means that "Jesus has set you free from the tyranny of the powers of this world." In what ways have you experienced Jesus setting you free from the tyranny of the powers of this world?

c. In what ways and areas are you tempted to put yourself under its tyranny again?

d. What does it take to consistently live in the freedom that God has provided in Christ?

4. Paul goes on to explain that our lives are now hidden in Christ. This is kind of a cryptic phrase but there seem to be two ideas behind the phrase.

a. Read v. 4. How does verse 4 help you understand what the phrase "hidden in Christ means?"

b. How does this fact affect you? Does it provide reassurance, anticipation, etc.? Is it encouraged or frustrating?

c. Second, look at Ps. 27:5. What does this text teach us about what it means to "hide in God?"

d. What is your current confidence level in God as a source of security and protection? What causes it to go up or down?