

## Context

Colossians gives us a concise, but comprehensive view of who Jesus is. And with this, an understanding of how the truth of who He is can profoundly impact our personal lives. This New Testament book shows us that he's the supreme factor in every equation of life.

It's always helpful to read an entire book of scripture before digging into each chapter and verse. If you haven't yet, it would be good to read all of Colossians before beginning this week's study. You will definitely want to read the first twenty-three verses of chapter one.

## Read Colossians 3:1-11

1. After reading verse 1...is Paul writing to followers of Christ in this section or to those who are not in Christ? (This is very important to understand as it sets up the rest of the passage and the motivation behind how we respond.)
2. Why do you think Paul chose to use the word "hearts" in verse 1? What does this tell you about the nature of what he is unpacking in this section of Colossians?
3. Describe what our position is "in Christ".
4. What difference does it make that we have died with Christ, that we have been raised with Christ and that we will be in glory with Him if we have been justified through Christ?
5. How do your life goals or ambitions reflect your position in Christ?
6. How would you define a "heart idol"?
7. What are the idols; the things that capture your heart and distract you from Christ? You might ask this question to identify your idols: *What do I long for, trust, or fear?* For example, if I fear "not having enough" I might idolize money (because it promises that I'll have security). If I long to "not be single" I might idolize marriage (because I'll finally be in relationship).
8. How are the idols in your life already met in Christ? (i.e. – The idol of recognition. If I am in Christ I have been recognized as a child of God. I have the approval of God through faith in Jesus Christ and therefore I don't need to long for the approval and recognition of others (2 Cor. 5:17-21).
9. What does it mean in verse 11 when Paul says: "but Christ is all, and is in all"? How does setting our affections on Christ, and delighting in the privileges that are ours in Christ (see verses 1-4), combat the idols in our lives?
10. How does this passage and looking at this topic of idols impact your walk with Christ?