

Colossians 3v1-17.
Set your mind on things above

Warm Up

What does it mean to be a British citizen? Does any one know the FIVE British values set out by the government about 20 years ago? If you know, how do they compare to Christian virtues?

Background and context

Paul wrote his letter to the church at Colossae to counter heretical teachings that had crept in to the church. We must remember that the early church was made up of a wide variety of people from different backgrounds, all bringing with them their previous beliefs, culture and practices. Paul writes to counter these 'heresies' and establish the supremacy of Christ and set out what it means to live a Christian life with Christ at the centre.

Thinking it through: Main discussion/activity



READ Colossians 3:1-17. What are the surprising things in the passage? What is new? What don't you really understand?

1. We are called to set our heart and minds on *"things above."* What are some of these *"things above"*? **Matthew 6v19-21, Romans 8v5, Philippians 4v8** will help
2. **Read verses 1-4.** What are the different ways that we are identified with Jesus Christ?
3. **Read v5-9.** Many of the sins we are called to turn from, were also mentioned by Jesus in the sermon on the mount (Matthew 5-7) what links do you notice?
4. **Read v 6.** Paul reminds the Colossians that they *"used to live in these [sinful] ways"* but they don't any longer. Can you give some examples of people's lives who have been transformed by the grace of God? (e.g. characters in the Bible, personal experience of yourself or others you know)
6. We are described as *"God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved"*. How can knowing this help us turn from sin and live Jesus' way?
7. We are called to bear with one another, forgive, and to hold no grudges. How do you find doing this? What insights from this passage, or other scriptures, can help us in this?
8. Thanksgiving and praise seem linked to peace in our hearts (cf: Philippians 4 v 4-7). Have you found this true in your experience?
9. What does the passage tell us about singing praise in church? (v16-17)

Discipleship and Application



10. It can be hard to break sinful habits. The phrase **"old habits die hard"** comes to mind. What advice would you give a Christian who is struggling with the old bad habits?



Try to leave 15-20 mins to talk about prayer needs of the group and to pray.

There are many creative ways of praying together: writing prayers, using candles as a focus, reading prayers or praying for each other in pairs.