

STUDYING THE BOOK OF COLOSSIANS
IN SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Lesson 5 - Rules for Holy Living - Colossians 3:1-17

Read the following verses in the New International Version or a translation of your choice. Then discuss the questions that follow. Questions should be studied by each individual before your discussion group meets.

Materials may be copied and used for Bible study purposes. Not to be sold.

COL 3:1 Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. [2] Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. [3] For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. [4] When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

COL 3:5 Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. [6] Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. [7] You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. [8] But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. [9] Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices [10] and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. [11] Here there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.

COL 3:12 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. [13] Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. [14] And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

COL 3:15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. [16] Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. [17] And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 5 - Rules for Holy Living - Colossians 3:1-17

54. Where did Paul tell the Colossians to turn their attention? (3:1)
55. Where did Paul tell the believers to focus their concern? (3:2)
56. What was the Colossians' security? (3:3)

57. Why should believers look forward to Christ's return? (3:4)
58. What must die? (3:5)
59. What evil activities does God seek to eliminate from our lives? (3:5)
60. Why is God's wrath coming? (3:5-6)
61. What had the Colossians taken off? (3:7-9)
62. What had the Colossians put on? (3:10)
63. What distinctions are removed in Christ? (3:11)
64. What virtues does God seek to plant in us? (3:12, 14)
65. How were the Colossian believers called to clothe themselves? (3:12-17)
66. Why did Paul call on the believers to be peaceful and thankful? (3:15-16)
67. What should we do? How? (3:17)
68. What is one principle that ought to guide everything we do? (3:17)

Lesson 6 - Rules for Christian Households - Colossians 3:18-25

COL 3:18 Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.

COL 3:19 Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them.

COL 3:20 Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.

COL 3:21 Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.

COL 3:22 Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to win their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord. [23] Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, [24] since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. [25] Anyone who does wrong will be repaid for his wrong, and there is no favoritism.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 6 - Rules for Christian Households - Colossians 3:18-25

69. What should wives do? (3:18)

70. What should husbands do? (3:19)
71. How should children respond to parents? (3:20)
72. Why does obedience to parents please the Lord? (3:20)
73. Of what do fathers need to be careful? (3:21)
74. How can children become discouraged? (3:21)
75. What directives did Paul give slaves? (3:22-25)
76. How were slaves called on to serve Christ? (3:23-24)
77. How would God mete out full justice in the master-slave relationship? (3:25)