

Soaring Oaks Presbyterian Church: Adult Bible Study Questions for 1/14/2007
Colossians 3:1-11

1. Read Colossians 3:1-4

(a) Read Ephesians 2:4-6 and decide whether you think it should be difficult for a child of God (one born again according to John 1:12-13 and 3:1-7) “to seek the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.”

(b) Re-read Colossians 3:3-4 and take them with you to wait on the Lord for a few minutes in prayer. If you would like to, come on Sunday prepared to share what you found there.

In Col 3:5-17, Paul enters into implications or application of the wondrous truths given in Colossians 3:1-4. We are not what we were; we have been changed. So, dwell in the newness of life, and do not dwell in the old place of corruption. First Paul will plead with the saints (us) to forsake specific ways of the flesh. Then he will remind us of the transformation we have undergone in Christ. Finally, he exhorts us to walk in specific new patterns appropriate to our calling in Christ. In this lesson, we will consider the first two of these three points.

2. Read Colossians 3:5-8.

(a) From Colossians 3:5 and 3:8, list on a separate line each of the sinful practices and characteristics that Paul gives. Then, next to each one, write a contrasting godly practice or characteristic.

(b) Which of the godly practices or characteristics would you say is most challenging to you with respect to walking in it here and now (meaning in the days and years to come in this present life)?

(c) Write a short prayer to God in which you confess his character, accept his call on your life, and ask his help by the Holy Spirit to move out in faith to live in this new way.

(d) In Colossians 3:6-7, we read that God’s wrath is coming because of the evils listed in 3:5 and 3:8. We also are reminded that we have been guilty of these practices and inward character defects. Use a Concordance (if necessary) to find at least two places in God’s word where you are told that God’s wrath will not fall on believers. What authority do you have to claim this blessed deliverance?

3. Read Colossians 3:9-11.

(a) Paul is not giving the Colossians good advice for prosperous living according to human traditions and philosophies. He is counting on (reckoning on) truth revealed about God by God. Accordingly he tells the Colossian saints that they ‘have put off the old self’ and ‘have put on the new self.’ How have we put off the old self? How have we put on the new self? Explore this using previous verses in Colossians: 1:5-6, 1:9-10, 1:13, 1:21-22, 2:6, 2:11-13, and 3:3.

(b) Christ transforms individuals. He also is in the business of transforming relations between people, taking down the divisions and distinctions among us to make of his people one body. Make another list; put each type or condition that Paul identifies on a separate line and associate each one with a similar type or condition in our present terminology. Example: Barbarian = Redneck?

(c) Were any of the associations you wrote down in part (b) surprising or difficult to imagine being part of the body of Christ with you? If so, what is your prayer?