

## BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, September 26, 2010

Passage: Colossians 3:5-11

Memory Passage: Col. 3:5

**TODAY:** From your study this past week, what is one thing that impressed you that can be of help in your life?

### DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Col. 2:20-3:11.** The first rule for the proper interpretation of Scripture is: Read the passage in its context! So, write down what the connection is between Col 2:20-3:4 and Col. 3:5-11. What are the truths in the first passage that influence or help you understand how to obey the second passage? What terms are common between the two, and what does that tell you. How does 3:5-11 fit into the flow of the entire letter of Colossians? Etc. etc etc.

(b) Notice the conjunctions (remember? “Conjunction junction, what’s your function? Hookin’ up words and phrases and clauses!”) that begin these verses (“if” in 2:20 & 3:1; “for” in 3:3; “but” in 3:8; “and” in 3:10). How do these conjunctions help us understand how each part of this larger passage fits together?

(c) Now write down every verb you find in 3:5-11. Next to each verb, write its tense (i.e. present, past), its voice (i.e. active, passive) and its subject (i.e. who/what carries out the action). How does identifying these elements help you to understand this passage and the responsibility you have to obey it?

(d) *Family:* In advance of this lesson, make a set of flash cards (using 3x5 cards or cut up paper) similar to this: Make 15-20 cards that have verbs written on them. Make the verbs colorful and descriptive. Then make 30-40 (double the amount of the verbs) cards that have nouns (some singular & some plural) and articles (indefinite or definite) written on them (i.e. “a centipede” or “the nose rings”). Throw in some adjectives as well to make things interesting (“the yellow monkeys” or “a dangling participle”)! Then arrange them in stacks: 10 nouns-10 verbs-10 nouns. Have your family turn over a card out of each stack that will make up silly sentences. When you are finished, you might let them make up their own silly sentences from the cards. All the way through, teach them the difference between verbs and nouns, and that verbs have nouns that carry out their action. Then **read Colossians 3:5-11** as a family and identify all of the verbs and who carries out each action.

### DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Col. 2:20 & 3:5.** Paul says we have died with Christ (2:20), so why do we need to “put to death what is earthly?”

(b) **Read Rom. 6:5-14.** Write down everything God has accomplished in Christ on your behalf that allows you to “put to death” sin in your life. Then write down everything you are commanded to do as you “put to death” sin in your life.

(c) “Putting to death” sin is part of our sanctification (the process of being conformed into the image & likeness of Christ). In your study of Romans 6 yesterday you made lists of God’s work and your responsibility. What does this tell you about your role in your own sanctification? What about God’s role? How are they connected? Is either role more important?

(d) *Family:* Prior to your worship time, either you or a member of your family need to dress in a very white and clean outfit, and then dress in a second layer over the top of the white layer that is very dirty & grimy. The dirty set can be a set of painting or work clothes, or a set of old clothes that you send your child out to “play in the mud” in every sense of the word! March the dirty one in and ask questions like, “Who would like to give them a hug?” or “Would you like to wear this outfit to church/school/best friend’s house?” Get them talking about how filthy the outfit is and how useless it is. Then have the person quickly divest themselves of the dirty outfit to reveal the clean one and ask the same questions. Then ask, “Why do you respond differently to the dirty clothes?” & “What real difference is there in the person?” Then **read Zechariah 3:1-10** and teach your family the relationship between being cleansed of their sin and acting in a way consistent with this cleansing.

### DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Zechariah 3:1-10 & Col. 3:5-11.** Explain what happened to Joshua in the Zech. passage. What was significant about Joshua before and after his cleansing? What was the angel of the Lord’s charge to Joshua after the cleansing?

(b) How is Zech. 3:8-10 related to our passage, Col. 3:5-11? (To what/whom, does Zech. point in vs. 8-10? What will happen then?)

(c) What does Paul, using the imagery of “putting off” and “putting on,” call us to “put off?” What is the difference between the list of vices in v. 5 and the list in vs. 8-10 (i.e. do they affect different people/groups? Are they manifested differently?)

(d) *Family:* On your white board, list the vices found in vs. 8-10. Next to each word write a definition of that vice. You can use dictionaries for this if needed, or have definitions already written on pieces of paper that can be read and then matched with the correct vice. Spend some time talking about each one, asking your family if they have ever felt/acted in these ways. Discuss the consequences of these sins, as well as what it means to “put them off” (remind them of last night’s study).

**DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT****READ THE PASSAGE**

- (a) **Read 1 Thess. 4:1-7 & Col. 3:5.** Write down each vice that Paul mentions in Col. 3:5-9 and write a definition of each one. Use a dictionary if need to understand the differences between each vice.
- (b) What is the relationship of each of these vices to each other? Why does Paul refer to “covetousness” as “idolatry?”
- (c) What do you learn from 1 Thess. 4:1-7 about God’s desire for us with regard to our sexuality? To what has He called us?
- (d) With which of these vices do you struggle? Write down specific ways in which you might “put off” these sinful actions/thoughts and use what you have learned about struggling with sin in Colossians.
- (e) *Family:* Begin your lessons with something that is poisonous sitting in the middle of the table (rat poison, insecticide, drain cleaner, etc.). Ask: “What would happen if you ate/drank this?” “Is it dangerous to you as long as you don’t eat/drink it?” Use questions like these to lead them in an understanding that even though the substance is poisonous, they are in no harm if they don’t partake of it. Then **read James 1:13-15** and teach your family that sin starts off as a desire for sin that is controllable, and that these desires must not be allowed to give birth to sin. Also teach them that temptations in and of themselves are not sin, (just as poison is not harmful until we drink/eat it).

**DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT****READ THE PASSAGE**

- (a) **Read Rom. 1:18-32 & Col. 3:5-9.** What do you learn about God’s wrath in relation to men & women’s sin? Why is God’s wrath directed toward sinful humans?
- (b) Who is responsible for humans going hard after sexual sin (see esp. v. 24-26)? Was God passive or active?
- (c) What did humans do because of their debased mind (vs. 28-32)? How does this relate to Col. 3:5-9? Is Paul’s strong language commanding us to “put to death” these kinds of sins warranted? Why or why not? Are you in any danger of experiencing God’s wrath (Col. 3:6)? Are you sure, and if so, how are you sure?
- (d) *Family:* Go here [http://www.ccwtoday.org/article\\_view.asp?article\\_id=7](http://www.ccwtoday.org/article_view.asp?article_id=7) and print off Jim Elliff’s *35 Reasons Not to Sin*. Make a copy for each reader in your family. You can use this resource several ways: Read through each one of them and ask each person to mark the ones that strike them most; pick out several in advance that you can expound upon by pointing them to Christ as the replacement for the sin; choose reasons that point strongly toward our guilt before God and preach the Gospel to your family as the only way of escaping the requirements of this guilt. Then have everyone keep the sheet in their Bible.

**DAY 6 – ASK FOR INSIGHT****READ THE PASSAGE**

- (a) Go here [http://www.ccwtoday.org/article\\_view.asp?article\\_id=7](http://www.ccwtoday.org/article_view.asp?article_id=7) and print off Jim Elliff’s *35 Reasons Not to Sin*. Spend time reading through these reasons so that you will be strengthened in times of temptation, refocused on Christ as the power over the sin, and thankful that you are now a slave of God instead of a slave of Satan and can resist Satan so he will flee.

**DATE:** September 26, 2010

**PASSAGE:** Colossians 3:4-11

*Put off the Old Self*