

## BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, October 17, 2010

Passage: Col. 3:15-17

Memory Passage: Col. 3:16

**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 3:15-17.** What is the central theme of these verses?
- (b) Write down all of the verbs that you find in these verses. Now look for phrases that further describe (modify) each verb and write those down next to the proper verb. Do these modifying phrases change the meanings of each verb? If so, how?
- (c) How do these verses connect to what comes before? How do they connect to what follows? What is the relationship between “peace” and “be thankful” in v. 16?
- (d) *Family:* **Read Col. 3:15-17.** Using your white board to write their answers, ask your family to find all of the verbs in these verses (leave room for other words as you write each verb). If your family is too young to identify parts of speech, then you identify them, write them on your whiteboard, and explain that verbs are action words. Next have your family identify who should be carrying out the action of each verb. Next ask them to find phrases that further describe (modify) each verb and write those next to the proper verb. Ask questions like: “How do each of these phrases change the meaning of the verb?” “Are any of these actions easy to do?” “Are any hard to do?” “Which do you think would be the most enjoyable to do?”

### DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read John 14:27, 16:33, Rom. 8:6, 14:17, 19. 1 Cor. 14:33, 2 Cor. 13:11, Eph. 4:3, 1 Thess. 5:13 & James 3:18.** Write down all that you learn about “peace” from these verses.
- (b) **Now read Col. 3:15.** What does Paul mean when he writes, “Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts?” How does peace “rule” anything? What is the connection between peace ruling in individual hearts and peace ruling in the body?
- (c) What do you think could be said of a congregation in whom strife & turmoil ruled? Upon what/whom might the congregation be focused? Have you ever been a part of a body of believers like this? What was it like? Did you try to stop the turmoil or keep it going? Why & how?
- (d) What will you do if The Bible Church of Cabot begins to operate from a position of strife and turmoil rather than peace?
- (e) *Family:* Have paper for drawing and plenty of crayons &/or markers available. Have everyone draw a picture of “conflict.” (You might need to use a different word, like “battle” if they don’t understand conflict). After a while, have everyone describe his/her drawings and explain why it is a picture of conflict. Then have them turn their papers over and tell them to draw a picture of “peace.” Have them explain these drawings the same way. **Read John 14:26** and teach your family about the peace that Christ leaves his people. Use their drawings as object lessons as you describe this peace.

### DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) Paul frequently reminds us that we are called by God to be His people (Rom. 8:30; 9:24; 1 Cor. 1:9, Eph. 4:1, 4 et. al.). What does it mean to be called by God? Does God call all men? Why? Is there a difference between someone being called by a preacher to salvation and someone being called by God to salvation? What is the difference?
- (b) **Read 1 Cor. 7:15, Gal. 5:13, Eph. 4:4, 1 Thess. 4:7, 2 Tim. 1:9 & Col. 3:15.** All of these verses mention something to which we are specifically called. As you read each verse, write down the specific behavior/state to which believers are called.
- (c) What do we learn about God’s calling with regard to our behavior from the list you made in (b)? Are there certain types of behaviors/lifestyles that God expects of us based on His calling? How does this affect your view of your Christian life?
- (d) *Family:* **Read Col. 3:12.** Ask your family to think of everything they can that is or can be called (grandma, dogs, kids for dinner, people to worship, etc.) Then ask if these people/animals always answer their call, 100% of the time. Then ask, “Why do they not answer the call 100% of the time?” (Answer might include, because they don’t hear the call, because they are disobedient, because they don’t want to, etc.). Then Read Hebrews 9:15 and explain to your family that when God calls an individual it will be 100% effective, unlike all of the other calling that you just spoke of. Jesus’ death on the cross guarantees that all people God calls will be granted eternal life.

### DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Col. 3:15-17.** How do we “let the word of Christ dwell in (us) richly” (remember to keep yourself in the context of this passage as you answer this question)? How does the word “richly” affect this command?

(b) What does Paul mean by “the word of Christ?” Is it the words of Christ or the word about Christ? What have you already learned about “teaching” and “admonishing” in our study of Colossians?

(c) How do psalms, hymns & spiritual songs allow for the word of Christ to dwell richly in the body? How do they teach & admonish? What implications does this verse have for corporate worship? For family worship? For small group worship?

(d) *Family*: Choose a Psalm or a portion of a Psalm that you and your family can set to a melody that you already know. You will need to reword a line or two to make it work out metrically. You can also go here: [http://www.forevergratefulmusic.com/walk\\_humbly.htm](http://www.forevergratefulmusic.com/walk_humbly.htm) and find 20 Scriptures in the ESV set to music. Choose one or two and teach it to your family. (There are 9 other albums of Scriptures set to music for memory available on this site as well.) Then Read Col. 3:16 and teach your family the truths of this verse, using the songs/Psalm you just learned together as the example of how singing is a vehicle for teaching, admonishing, and letting the word of Christ dwell richly in us.

#### **DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**

#### **READ THE PASSAGE**

(a) **Read Col. 3:15-17 & 1 Cor. 10:31.** Is there a difference between doing everything in the name of the Lord Jesus & doing everything to the glory of God? If so, what is it? If not, why does Paul use two different phrases to say the same thing?

(b) In Bible times a person’s name represented who they were, as in their character. For instance Simon means “reed” and Peter means “rock.” This is also true of God. Scripture brings God’s character to us in many different names (i.e. Jehovah Jireh, “God is Provider” and Jehovah Shalom, “God is Peace” to name just 2). How does this reality help you know how to do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus?

(c) Consider every “word or deed” that you said/did yesterday. How many of them were done “in the name of the Lord Jesus?” How many would have brought shame to Christ? What ways might you be more careful to speak & act in ways that mirror Christ’s name? Can you think of any questions you might ask yourself before speaking/acting that would help you?

(d) *Family*: Read Col. 3:17. Teach your family the truths of this verse, emphasizing the comprehensive nature of “Whatever you do, in word or deed.” As you finish, ask, “What question(s) might we ask ourselves before speaking or acting in order to make sure what we are about to do is ‘in the name of the Lord Jesus’?” You may come up with several questions (“Will this bring honor to Jesus?” “Will I be able to give thanks to Jesus when I do/say this?” “Would what I am about to say/do reflect Jesus’ character?” After you write these questions down on your white board, choose one (or create one that combines several good questions) and have each person write this question on a 3x5 card or small piece of cardstock. Instruct them to keep this card with them and every time they are in doubt about whether or not a word or action is proper to do they can pull out the card and ask themselves the question.

#### **DAY 6 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**

#### **READ THE PASSAGE**

(a) Review what you have learned this week. Write a psalm of praise to God for His glorious provision for peace and harmony within the local church, which is accomplished in the thinking/emotions (peace ruling in our hearts), singing (psalms, hymns & spiritual songs that are used to teach and admonish one another with the word of Christ) and acting (doing everything in the name of the Lord Jesus) of His people. If you write your psalm to a meter (think of a song/hymn you already know) then you will be able to sing this psalm as well as read it!

**DATE:** October 17, 2010

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*Harmony in the Body*