

Colossians 3:1-14 Discussion Questions

- Ben opened with the idea that everyone wants self-improvement. What are some modern ways people try to find transformation apart from God? Why do these attempts fall short?
- Paul calls us to “seek the things that are above,” not the things that are “on earth.” How are you sometimes tempted to treat this world as ultimate?
 - What is the hardest part of your life to make subordinate to Christ?
- What does it mean that we have “died with Christ,” that our old self has been buried the Him?
 - How does it change our moral standing before God?
 - How does it change the way we experience good things in this world?
- Ben quoted Augustine, who famously said to his ex-lover, “It is no longer I.” In what ways does becoming a Christian change a person’s identity? (see also Gal. 2:20, Rom 6:6)
- Why do you think Paul uses such strong language like “put to death” when talking about sin?
- Ben described sin as the “de-Godding of God.” Why is sin not just harmful, but offensive to God? Why does it incur God’s wrath?
 - How does this challenge the way our culture thinks about morality?

- John Owen said, “Be killing sin, or sin will be killing you.” How have you seen sin quietly grow when left unchecked?
- Which of the sins in this passage seem especially normalized in our culture?
- Ben described impurity as “becoming comfortable with what once grieved your soul.” How can we guard against becoming desensitized to sin?
- Paul lists the virtues of compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, patience, or forgiveness. Which of these do you feel that you need to grow in the most?
- Ben said, “Kindness makes people feel safe instead of small.” Who has shown that type of kindness to you? How can we show it to others?
- Why is forgiveness often so difficult? How does remembering Christ’s forgiveness help us forgive others?
- Paul says, “Above all these put on love.” Why is love the defining mark of Christian maturity?
- How does the gospel motivate real heart change as opposed to guilt, fear, or self-improvement?