

THE BOOK OF

Colossians

BIBLE STUDY GUIDES FOR SMALL GROUPS

RELATIONAL BIBLE STUDY SERIES

CREATED BY STEVE CASE

Secret Exposure

OPENING QUESTION

When you have a secret, who is one person you'd like to tell? (You choose the secret)

READ Colossians 1:1—29.

1. Why do people pray for you *(vs. 3)*?

- A. They don't.
- B. Because I need help.
- C. They thank God for me.
- D. I've asked them to pray for me.
- E. They've heard about my faith and love.
- F. They've heard about my church's faith and love.
- G. Because I pray for them—they're returning the favor.
- H. They know about my hope that's propelled by heaven.
- I. Other.

2. What is your source for loving others?

- A. I love only those who love me.
- B. I tap into the example of Jesus.
- C. My pastor and others at church prompt me to love.
- D. When I see other people I sense they deserve to be loved.
- E. It's the Holy Spirit.
- F. My desire for heaven.
- G. I feel so loved; I'm just passing it on (to anyone and everyone).
- H. Other.

3. Prioritize these 9 prayer requests *(1-9)* for someone to pray for you:

- _____ Know God's will for your life
- _____ Have spiritual wisdom and understanding
- _____ Endurance and patience
- _____ Live in a God-pleasing way
- _____ Forgiveness of sin(s)
- _____ Increased intimacy with God
- _____ A fruitful life for God and others
- _____ An easier life
- _____ Joy

4. How do you know God is real when you can't see or hear him?

- A. I have seen/heard God.
- B. Circumstances/Coincidences/Providence.
- C. The Bible makes God real to me.
- D. Nature—the created world.
- E. An active Holy Spirit.
- F. The life and ministry of Jesus.
- G. I just sense God to be real; I can't necessarily explain it.
- H. Other.

5. Why would people drift away from the assurance of salvation (vs. 23)?

- A. You can't really know about your salvation until Christ returns.
- B. I simply don't measure up.
- C. Feelings come and go.
- D. I doesn't always seem like I'm in God's presence.
- E. When I get busy with other things I "drift."
- F. It's easier to go with the flow than maintain connection with God.
- G. The lure of what the world offers.
- H. Things change with time.
- I. Other.

6. How do you explain the "secret" Christ lives in you!?

- A. That's a secret to me.
- B. It's just a fact—say it.
- C. My perspective and life changed when Jesus "came in."
- D. Christ is in me, but I'm not sure how alive He is right now.
- E. My suffering is proof.
- F. My joy is proof.
- G. I can't stop talking about Jesus.
- H. Other.

7. How has your life changed since you first grasped God's grace?

8. How did "Christ's blood on the cross" (vs. 19-20) reconcile everything to God? How does this affect you?

You're Killing Me

OPENING QUESTION

Which is more agonizing: When someone is killed suddenly (accident or attack) or over time (destructive habits or disease)?

READ **Colossians 2:1–23.**

1. For whom do you agonize?

- A. The people I know.
- B. The people I don't know.
- C. Anyone associated with "Laodicea."
- D. Those who lack unity.
- E. Those who destroy unity.
- F. People in need of encouragement.
- G. Anyone without Christ.
- H. Those who bug me.
- I. Other.

2. What well-crafted arguments deceive people today?

- A. God is a delusion for weak people.
- B. Every belief has equal validity and credibility.
- C. Evolution or Creation.
- D. Political platforms.
- E. How important (certain) policies are.
- F. Beliefs are more important than actions.
- G. Actions are more important than beliefs.
- H. Other.

3. What have you found helpful in order to continue to follow Jesus?

- A. Focus on the positives.
- B. Being part of a small group.
- C. Involvement in a faith community.
- D. Go deeper with Jesus—moving from "milk" to "meat."
- E. Expressing gratitude.
- F. A personal devotional life and spiritual disciplines.
- G. Sharing Jesus with others.
- H. Serving others.
- I. Other.

4. What does/did your baptism mean to you?

- A. Forgiveness of all my sins.
- B. It was like a rite of passage for growing up Adventist.
- C. I became a new person, resurrected to a new life.
- D. Not as much as it meant to others.
- E. It gave me power to overcome my natural selfishness.
- F. It made me part of the Body of Christ.
- G. I'm no longer a slave to the power of evil.
- H. Other.

5. What's an example of a (good) rule that is only a shadow of Jesus?

- A. Baptism.
- B. Adventist education.
- C. Vegetarian, vegan, or flavor-free food.
- D. Daily devotionals.
- E. Seventh-day Sabbath.
- F. Tee-totaling—living alcohol free.
- G. Church.
- H. Tithing.
- I. Other.

6. What have you found helpful to conquer your evil desires?

- A. Nothing.
- B. Ignore them.
- C. Self-discipline.
- D. Prayer.
- E. Clear boundaries.
- F. An accountability partner.
- G. Rebaptism.
- H. Praise and worship.
- I. Other.

7. As a follower of Jesus, does your life have more “Yes” or more “No”?

8. Have you ever “died with Christ”? What part of you needs to “die with Christ” now?

Really Living

OPENING QUESTION

Which is more real to you: What you **can** see OR what you **can't** see?

READ Colossians 3:1–25.

1. How do you place your sights on the realities of heaven (vs. 1)?

- A. Stay off social media.
- B. Treat heaven as eternal; treat earth as temporary.
- C. Listen to Christian music all the time.
- D. Study the book of Revelation.
- E. Get into the Gospels.
- F. Be resurrected with Christ (whatever that means).
- G. Keep my focus on Jesus.
- H. Replace my personal goals with whatever Jesus desires for me.
- I. Other.

2. How do you deal with dying to this life and putting off glory until Christ's return (vs. 3-4)?

- A. It's really hard sometimes.
- B. Delaying gratification requires maturity.
- C. The payoff is going to be huge!
- D. God shows his glory through his people now.
- E. I get plenty of glory now.
- F. I wouldn't get much glory now anyway.
- G. I don't think "dying to this life" puts off glory to a later time.
- H. Other.

3. What are good ways to put to death the sinful things in you?

- A. Put them on the altar of sacrifice to God.
- B. Join a recovery group.
- C. Release greed by becoming content.
- D. Focus on Jesus rather than focusing on sin.
- E. Hand over your anger and revenge to your graceful God.
- F. Deal with your own sexual sin(s) rather than castigating others.
- G. Speak the truth; stop lying.
- H. Confession—public repentance.
- I. Other.

4. What are practical ways to make allowance for each other's faults?

- A. It's not practical (at all).
- B. Cut people more slack.
- C. Be nicer to family members.
- D. Remember you also have faults.
- E. Stop keeping score.
- F. Fill up on forgiveness so you can pass it on to others.
- G. Make your first response kindness rather than condemnation.
- H. Other.

5. What are signs/indicators you have put on your new nature?

- A. Reduction in wicked deeds.
- B. You have a new #1 (and it's not you).
- C. Teachability instead of self-importance.
- D. Joy replacing anger.
- E. Treating all people with equal respect.
- F. Refusing to engage in sexual immorality.
- G. Intimacy with your Creator.
- H. Generosity rather than greed.
- I. Other.

6. What does it mean "God has no favorites" (vs. 25)?

- A. Just what it says.
- B. God is very different from us.
- C. Maybe we shouldn't have favorites.
- D. That's just not possible for us.
- E. But Adventists really are his favorites (keep it a secret, if you can).
- F. I think I treat everyone the same.
- G. You're included.
- H. I'm going to need a reorientation in order to be more Godly.
- I. Other.

7. If your "real life" is hidden with Christ in God (vs. 3), how would you describe your "real life"?

8. If Christ is all that matters between people, what classifications will you need to release (such as gender, ethnicity, age, position, religion, sexuality, socioeconomic status, intelligence, skill levels, nationality, etc.)?

Talk and Pray

OPENING QUESTION

Do you prefer to pray silently or out loud; alone or in a group?

READ Colossians 4:1–18.

1. Who are your masters?

- A. My boss at work (or school).
- B. My boss at home.
- C. Church.
- D. The need to have the latest.
- E. God.
- F. My phone.
- G. What others think of me.
- H. Habits.
- I. Other.

2. What opportunities do you have to speak about Christ?

- A. I'm not going to jail for it.
- B. I'm in a small group Bible study.
- C. I don't really have anything worth sharing.
- D. Wise, witty, quick, gracious—not me!
- E. I never know when I'm supposed to say something.
- F. Most of the people I know already believe in Christ; what would I say?
- G. I rarely think about it.
- H. Every day someone comes across my path.
- I. Other.

3. What part does prayer play in your life?

- A. It's my lifeblood.
- B. It's rather dry and pedantic.
- C. I have an on-going conversation with God throughout the day.
- D. Things have to be pretty serious for me to pray.
- E. I have regular times of prayer.
- F. It tends to be a reflex, depending on what I experience.
- G. I simply won't start a meal until I've prayed.
- H. Prayer is part of my private world, but not part of my public world.
- I. Other.

4. What are the types of people who hang out with you?

- A. A beloved “brother” or “sister.”
- B. Someone who serves with you faithfully.
- C. People who build you up.
- D. People you build up.
- E. Some who suffer.
- F. Some who deserted you in the past.
- G. Some who will desert you in the future.
- H. Prayer warriors.
- I. Other.

5. What do you think Paul wrote in his letter to Laodicea (vs. 16)?

- A. You’re lukewarm.
- B. Any chance I could get some eye salve for my bad eyes?
- C. Much of the same message as what is found in Colossians.
- D. Pride and self-sufficiency are deadly sins.
- E. Jesus is returning soon.
- F. Could you help finance another mission trip?
- G. Dig some water wells since your aqueduct water tastes so bad.
- H. Grace and peace to you.
- I. Other.

6. Why should the believers “remember Paul’s chains” (vs. 18)?

- A. It could happen to them.
- B. Have no fear because of your faith.
- C. Keep praying for Paul.
- D. Other believers are also in chains.
- E. Present suffering pales in comparison to future glory.
- F. This was Paul’s choice.
- G. Followers of Jesus get mistreated; don’t be so surprised.
- H. Other.

7. If someone who knows you well gave a full report about how you’re getting along, what would they say?

8. What is the ministry the Lord gave you (vs. 17)?

