

## Discussion Questions: Col 1:9-14

1. In this section of Colossians, Paul launches off into a hymn. Whether he wrote it or it had already been written no one knows for sure. What we do know is that it is packed with rich truth about Jesus. Take some time to identify the different things said about Christ and then discuss what they mean.

2. Which one of these facts about Jesus stands out to or impacts you the most? Why?

3. In what areas of your life are you living like Jesus is pre-eminent or supreme over everything? In what areas are you struggling to do that?

4. What does it mean to you that the being in whom, through whom and for whom the universe was created, who holds all things together, is your savior and you are part of his body, the Church? How should this affect our view of the importance and value of the Church?

5. V. 22 teaches us that the reason Jesus reconciled us through his death was to present us "holy and blameless and above reproach before him." The terms "holy" and "blameless" here come from sacrificial language and refer to our status before God as clean, spotless and guiltless. This is justification. The last term "above reproach" refers to our ethical behavior, and so that is sanctification. So Jesus died to both cleans us from our sin before God but also to help us to live lives of increasing holiness. Both are important.

a. Which of these do you have more trouble with? Do you struggle with accepting that God has cleansed you and when He sees you, He sees you as righteous in Jesus? Or because you know that you are forgiven, do you struggle more with pursuing holiness because you take his grace for granted?

b. How does this affect your attitude towards God, others, circumstances, etc.?

c. How does this affect your behavior?

6. What does v. 23 teach us about the importance of putting our hope in the gospel?

a. What is the "hope" of the gospel?

b. In what area of your life are you tempted to put your hope in other things?

