



Colossians: Jesus Over Everything

September 10 – Colossians 2:16-23 | Group Discussion Guide

Begin with silence and prayer (5-10 minutes).

Begin your time together in silence. In your silence, acknowledge that the Lord God, the Creator and Sustainer of everything and everyone, is worthy of all praise.

After you have finished reading and sitting in silence, have someone in the group pray for your time together.

Spend a few moments reciting your memory verse from last week: **Colossians 2:6-8**.

Split into smaller groups to read Colossians 2:16-23 and discuss (20 minutes).

- Take a few minutes to read Colossians 2:16-23.
- Once you've finished reading, answer the following questions:
 1. How were the false teachers "disqualifying" the believers in the church of Colossae? What were the teachers emphasizing in these verses? How did they miss the point?
 2. What regulations were the false teachers asking the church to submit to? Are these regulations inherently bad?

3. Where is true freedom and power found according to Paul (see Colossians 2:13-15)?

- Once you've finished with these questions, spend one minute reflecting on your conversation. Is there anything that's sticking with you from God's Word?
- Share your reflections with your smaller group.

Come back together as a large group to talk about the sermon (30 minutes).

Choose a few of these questions to discuss as a group.

- What deepened your faith from the message? What challenged you?
- What does freedom mean to you?
- Read John 8:36 and Galatians 5:13. What is the kind of freedom expressed by these verses? In what do you live in spiritual bondage (think of Dan's opening list of ways people lack true freedom)?
- In his sermon, Dan mentioned that Jesus brings us freedom from obsolete religious traditions. Which verses did he base that off of and in what ways do you think people hold to obsolete religious traditions today?
- Dan also mentioned that, "In Christ, unhelpful religious traditions are replaced by Spirit-led rhythms and practices." How are religious traditions different than Spirit-led rhythms? Where in your own life have you experienced the freedom of rhythms?
- Next Dan mentioned how we are set free from unhealthy religious leaders. How do you discern whether the religious leaders and teachings you follow are truly rooted in Christ and his grace? How do you discern if they are leading you towards empty rituals and human traditions that do not bring you closer to God?
- Lastly, Dan also talked about how Jesus sets us free from legalistic religious rules. Considering that Jesus has given you a new identity that is alive and free, verses 20-22 force us to ponder: *if you don't live for the things of the world, then why do we still submit to them?* Honestly answer the question for yourself. Are you still trying to reach God through religious activity or are you walking with him and allowing him to form your actions, choices, and thoughts?
- What do you feel like a next step of obedience is as a result of today's discussion?

Finish with logistics and prayer (10 minutes).

1. Make sure to inform your group about the study devotions available to help you walk through the Colossians text! You can find that material at thecreek.org/devotionals.
2. Sign up for Tether! Tether is an incredible tool that will give us practical next steps to live out what we learn on Sundays and in our groups throughout the week. You can view it and download it here: <https://withtether.app.link/download>
3. Also, be sure to challenge your group to memorize the verses for this week: Colossians 2:16-17. You'll be asked next week to recite them in group!

Finish your group session with prayer. Break everyone down into triads to end the night with prayer for one another. In the groups, have people share "What is on your heart that you need prayer for?" and then spend time praying.