Week 10: Colossians 1:19-23

**19** For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, **20** and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

**21** And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, **22** he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, **23** if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.

# About This Week’s Message – March 20, 2011

This week we finally start taking off through the rest of the book. We’ll be in verses 1:19-23.

*The following questions are the 1:10 Homework for the week of March 20, 2011.*

*Comments in the grey boxes will not be included on the 1:10 Homework your group receives.*

# Getting Started

*This week’s study is based on Colossians 1:19-23.*

*Start by praying for the Holy Spirit to guide you.*

*Then read through Colossians 1:19-23 a few times before moving on.*

With your group, you might want to begin by reading the passage aloud. Maybe you would have someone read beginning in v. 1 and read it imagining a group of people around them, the whole church, hanging on every word of instruction for them from Paul.

The following questions are just introductory discussion starters. Remember that throughout you don’t have to cover every single question with your group. Let the Spirit lead!

1. As best as you can, in your own words, define peace.

2. Can you think of a time in your life when there was some kind of division or hostility between you and someone else, but now there is peace in that situation/relationship? What happened to bring peace?

# Digging Deeper

1. **Read Isaiah 42:1-4, Mark 1:9-11, and Colossians 1:19.** Why do you think the Father is so pleased with Jesus?

The Father delights in the Son. In his glory, in his obedience, in the way he reconciles everything back to God the Father. The biggest thing may simply be, though, that the Father delights in who Jesus is, in his very being.

2. If you’re a parent, describe your sense of pleasure in your children. If you don’t have kids, describe a time when your parents expressed their pleasure in you.

There is potential here for some pain points to emerge in people’s lives. Pain over disobedient or estranged children, pain over bad relationships with their own parents, etc. The goal here is to see that God’s design is for our lives to image his. Not only do we image God in our being (Genesis 1:26-27), but in our relationships. The love the Father has for the Son is inherently evident in a parent’s love for and delight in their child. In our sin we mess this up (we “crack the mirror” as we’ve said before), and that’s where the pain comes in with broken relationships. There is hope, though, in the passage this week for those who trust Jesus, as he will reconcile all things.

So for those with good stories – tie it back into the way this is modeled for us in the Trinity, and how it’s part of our function as image bearers of God.

For those with painful stories – focus on Jesus’ ministry of reconciling us back to God, and providing a “fix” for our sin.

3. **Exodus 34:14** says “the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God.” When it comes to the Father’s relationship to the Son, do you think he is jealous *for* Jesus to receive glory? Or is he jealous *of* Jesus getting glory? Why? What is the difference?

God is jealous FOR Jesus’ glory, not of it. Being jealous FOR the Son’s glory is a function of his goodness and love. Jesus truly is God, he truly is most valuable, and so he truly deserves first place, our worship, and all the glory. — The Father’s heart is for Jesus to be made much of, for Jesus to be worshiped and lifted up.

4. How does Jesus get glory in our church at Wawasee Bible? How do you give Jesus glory in *your* daily life? How could you?

Just list out and talk about examples of how we glorify Jesus and lift him up as a church, and how you might do it as individuals in your everyday lives.

5. **Read Colossians 1:19-23. Now read Ephesians 2:11-17.** Make a list of observations from these passages of how God provides peace for us through Jesus.

6. **Colossians 1:23** says that we ought to “continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel”. How does a person do this? (HINT: Jesus gives some advice on this in **John 15:1-17** and **John 5:39-40**.)

The key is to abide in Jesus. To stay close to him through reading Scripture, prayer, and dependence upon the Holy Spirit.

Some follow-ups might be… How does being in a 1:10 Group help you abide in Christ?... Share ideas or ways you abide in Christ as individuals that might be helpful to others in their walk… When is a time you’ve done well at abiding? When is a time you’ve struggled? What were the results of those times?

# Up Close

1. **Read Jesus’ words in Matthew 11:28-30 and John 16:33.** Where do you need his peace? Have you obeyed Jesus’ words with regard to this thing and sought him out? If yes, how? If no, how could you.

Again, avoid generalizations as much as possible. Prod people for some specific action steps.

Spending at least some time each week praying for each other will be huge in developing community and seeing growth in your group. Don’t just skip over this. If you’re starting a new group, it will probably be sparse at first, but set the pace early and establish prayer for each other as an important part of your time together.

Focus first on prayer for each other, but if you need additional ideas, prayer requests will be on the inserts each week after the 1:10 Homework.