

COLOSSIANS

ABOVE ALL



COLOSSIANS: ABOVE ALL

Paul writes to the church at Colossae to show that Jesus Christ is greater than Caesar and what they already have in Christ Jesus is sufficient and supreme. Jesus truly is above all other rulers. His kingdom reign is above all governments. His work is above all other accomplishments. And all who are in Christ can live a life above all that the world offers. And that greater life can be experienced and expressed in everything we do, everywhere, every day.

PART 1: EVIDENCE OF GOSPEL FRUIT

Read the text: Colossians 1:1-8

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,

To the saints and faithful brothers in Christ at Colossae:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father.

We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel, which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and increasing—as it also does among you, since the day you heard it and understood the grace of God in truth, just as you learned it from Epaphras our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister

of Christ on your behalf and has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

Paul begins his letter affirming the Colossian church for the evidence of gospel fruit in their lives. In light of the pressure the church was receiving to adopt more religious practices or syncretize with other beliefs to affirm their faith, Paul wants them to know they don't need more than what they have already received from Epaphras. The truth of the gospel is enough. The fruit of faith, love and hope is sufficient evidence that they have heard the truth in the gospel, understood it, and are being changed by it.

Discussion Questions:

These questions are written for DNA groups, but you can use them in any setting, including missional communities. Because they were written for the intimacy of DNA friendships, you may need to adjust for larger groups.

1. Paul begins his letter encouraging the Colossian church for the evidence of gospel fruit in their lives. Take some time to encourage one another of the gospel fruit you've seen in each other's lives. Be specific!
2. Looking at your own life right now, where would you like to see more fruit in your walk with Jesus? Is there a spiritual practice you'd like to grow in? An area of sin or struggle that you'd like to heal from? Something that you want to grow in but are just feeling stuck in right now?
3. The Colossians were faced with pressure to incorporate cultural beliefs and practices into their faith. We also see this today where certain political and social beliefs are equated with Christianity. Think about where you have fallen into this temptation. Where do you see yourself spiritualizing something that is more a matter of opinion than a matter of gospel truth? For example, political beliefs, parenting style, opinions on COVID, etc.

4. Think about your relationships – with family, friends, co-workers, classmates, etc. Where in your life do you need faith to lead you to love?