

FOLLOWING JESUS: SUBVERTING THE

EMPIRE

STUDY GUIDE

Fullness in Christ

Colossians 2.6-15

WELCOME & SHARING

Share any announcements...

- Mazatlan Mission Trip is Feb 20-25. If you missed the info meeting last week and want to learn about the trip, contact Pastor Josh (joshua.reitano@gmail.com).
- The Great Cincinnati Bus Tour is coming up Saturday October 15, 8am-1pm. Dr Terry Grundy will be leading us on a bus tour of Cincinnati. We have limited seating, so purchase your tickets ASAP. Visit the City for more details and the link to purchase tickets.

Opener Question: Tonight we're going to talk about a different kind of "fullness," but to get things started... What is one food you could eat to the point of being stuffed... like you'd eat it until you're in pain?

STUDY/DISCUSSION

We are journeying through the Apostle Paul's letter to the Colossian church in September and October. This week we're studying Colossians 2:6-15.

Read: Colossians 2:6-15

1. When you think about fullness (or a full life, or being filled up), what comes to mind? How do verses 8-10 help us understand the concept?
2. On Sunday Pastor Josh suggested that when we seek fullness outside of Christ, there are several strategies we usually employ. Do any of these describe you?
 - The youthful — "Of course I'm restless, I haven't gotten to do all the things I'm going to do yet."
 - The resentful — "I would be quite happy if it weren't for _____."
 - The driven — "I've reached my goals, but is this all there is?"
 - The despairing — "There must be something wrong with *me*."

3. Respond to the following statement: “Most people, if they really learn how to look into their own hearts, would know that they do want, and want acutely, something that cannot be had in this world.” (C.S. Lewis, “Hope” in *Mere Christianity*)
4. Verses 11-15 describe what fullness in Christ looks like. As a group, tease out some of the ideas. Which of these is most meaningful to you?
HINT: Verses 11-12 can be confusing. Paul uses the Old Testament sacrament of circumcision and the New Testament sacrament of baptism to illustrate what happens to us when we are “in him.”
5. Verse 6 - The first step in finding fullness in Christ is receiving him? What does that look like? Does anyone want to share (briefly - like in a sentence or two) how this happened for you?
6. Read verses 6-7. What does it mean to “walk in him”? How is walking in Christ patterned after the way we receive Christ?
7. What is one thing you want to take away from this passage or our discussion?

NEIGHBORING EXPERIMENT OF THE MONTH: Try to meet one neighbor you don't know yet and learn something about them. (If you've met and talked about this, give a report...have you met a neighbor you didn't know before?)

PRAYER

As you get to know each other as a group, it's good to keep the prayer time a little lighter and help set the tone of how you'd like the prayer time to be as everyone is just getting to know each other. You can close in prayer, ask a few folks to pray, or break into smaller groups. Try using “conversational prayer” where folks pray briefly in a sentence or two (not “prayer speeches”), with normal words (no thees and thous), and can pray more than once (no “one and done” rule). Basically, pray to God like you're talking with one another.

What should we pray about? The most natural thing is to ask for personal requests if folks are willing to share, though in these first few weeks, people may be somewhat hesitant. Instead, you can pray in response to the passage, or simply focus your prayers on the growth and development of your community group.