

The Colossian Creed

Touching our Head, Heart and Gut.

Participant's Guide

BELTON FUMC
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The Colossian Creed

Session One

Where: Colossae is in present day Turkey. It was one-hundred miles upstream from Ephesus. It reached its prominence during the fifth-century b.c. It was known for dyed wool. There was even a specific color called, "Colossian." By the time of the New Testament church and Paul, Colossae's prominence had waned and was mostly populated by indigenous settlers. It was the least commercially and politically prominent city which Paul wrote too. Colossae eventually fell to an earthquake and was never rebuilt.

What? & Why?

An epistle: Speaks to the head, the heart and the gut.

The occasion:

When? For sake of argument in the mid 50s – 60s. During Paul's imprisonment in Rome.

Who? Written to Col.1:2, Acts 19 (spec v. 10)

Written by:

Epaphras:

II. Colossians 1:1-14

List the descriptors which demonstrate Colossae was an obedient and faithful congregation.

“For Paul an obedient church was one faithful to the apostolic teachings. See Acts 5: 27-32,

WHAT IS THE APOSTOLIC TEACHING?

The Kerygma or Teaching of the Apostles (From C.H. Dodd)

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

Refer also to the Apostles' Creed.

List the descriptors that demonstrate a 21st century church is faithful and obedient to the faith.

In the above two list of descriptors, circle the ones which apply to your church.

What do we need to do to be a more faithful and obedient congregation?

During the week include in your prayers thanksgiving for someone who exemplifies the Christian faith and also ask God to reveal how your church may be a more faithful congregation. Also read Col. 1:15-23.

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Session Two: *I Believe in Jesus Christ... But What Do I Believe?*

I. Write down three things you believe about Jesus Christ. (There are no wrong answers).

II. Engaging the passage: Col. 1:15-23

A. List the attributes of Christ from the passage.

Why Paul had to write this to the Colossian Christians.

B. List the attributes from the Apostles' and Nicene creeds. (see appendix)

How does this compare with your first thoughts about who and what Jesus is?

C. Theme of Jesus as God & Human.

John 11:35

List some events in the life of Jesus.

Do you tend to focus more on the humanity of the divinity of Christ?

Why does any of this matter?

III. HOW DO WE PROCLAIM THE UNIQUENESS OF CHRIST IN A
PLURALISTIC SOCIETY?

THE OPTIONS:

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Session Three

Colossians 2:6-23

Reading the passage: Col 2:6-23

Read the passage to yourself, notes words or phrases that strike you.

Sensory reading.

Engaging the passage:

Col. 2:6-15 Paul's response to the situation

Some words:

Struggling:

Rooted

Built

Established

Abounding

Col 2:16-23 – Paul's view of freedom in Christ

Compare to Col 1:21-23 Look for parallelisms.

Living the passage:

1. What has meeting the risen Christ meant to you?

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Session Four: *The Character of a Christian*

Colossians 3:1-17

I. Marks of a Christian from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount -- Matt 4:23-5:12

II. Colossians 3:1-17

A. What does it mean to put off?

B. What are the things we are to put off?

C. What does it mean to put-on?

D. What are the things we are to put on?

E. What does Paul state are Christian traits?

F. Why would Paul find it necessary to write these things to a Christian Community?

Reflect on this statement.

The task of the church is not to make the Gospel credible to the world, but to make the world credible to the Gospel, (S. Hauerwas & W. Willimon *Resident Aliens*)

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Session Five: *The Character of a Christian*

Colossians 3:18 – 4:1

See also Ephesians 5:21 – 6:9

What are the rules of a *Christian* household?

The meaning of submissive?

The meaning of love.

The meaning of obey.

What is the relationship of slave and Master?

How are any of these relevant for today's liberated and enlightened society?

Chapter 4. Further instruction and final greetings.

What does Paul say about prayer and speech?

The custom of letters

What is the significance of the people Paul names?

If Paul were to write a letter to BELTON FUMC what would he say?