

Questions for Growth Groups to apply the word of Colossians 1-3 to our hearts:

What struck you as Colossians was preached?

What is God saying to us at Trinity today?

Jesus is God's plan (1:1-23)

How does knowing God's plan for the world in Jesus encourage us to keep going with him? Why?

How can we model our prayers on Paul's prayer for the Colossians (in v9-14)?

[Pause to pray for each other, basing your prayers on one of the four participles Paul uses – bearing fruit, growing in knowledge of God, being strengthened, giving joyful thanks.]

God's plan to reach the nations (1:24-2:5)

Why does Paul consider suffering for the church joy ("I rejoice")?

All 'ministry' is sacrificial and self-giving, which can lead us to resent the time, energy and stress it can bring. Why is it worth it?

Be on your guard (2:6-3:4)

Jesus + something = nothing.... because Jesus + nothing = everything.

Where do we find ourselves looking to for salvation other than or in addition to Jesus? How do we continue in Jesus?

Know who you are, and so be who you are in Christ (3:5-17)

As we set our hearts on things above, that which belongs to 'below' are to be put to death. Which in the list are respectable, but still to be taken off?

How can we foster a church culture that inhabits verses 12-17?

Questions if your group would benefit from focussing on Colossians 3:1-17:

How is our identity shaped by our

- past? (v1-2)
- present? (v3)
- future? (v4)

How will we know if our identity is rooted in these realities?

As we set our hearts on things above, that which belongs to 'below' are to be put to death. Which in the list are respectable, but still to be taken off?

Which of the sins of the heart (v5-7) and the sins of the lips (v9) are most challenging to take off in our culture/context?

How is real, heartfelt change possible?

What will changed hearts and lips result in... us personally? us as a church family?

How can we foster a church culture that inhabits verses 12-17?