



DISCUSSION GUIDE FEBRUARY 12, 2023

Dive In

Go around and let everyone answer...

Why is the cross such a powerful religious symbol? Is this a good thing?

Dig Deep

Read Scripture: Colossians 2:12-23

¹³When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, ¹⁴having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross. ¹⁶Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. ¹⁷These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ. ¹⁸Do not let anyone who delights in false humility and the worship of angels disqualify you. Such a person also goes into great detail about what they have seen; they are puffed up with idle notions by their unspiritual mind. ¹⁹They have lost connection with the head, from whom the whole body, supported and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows as God causes it to grow. ²⁰Since you died with Christ to the elemental spiritual forces of this world, why, as though you still belonged to the world, do you submit to its rules: ²¹"Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch!"? ²²These rules, which have to do with things that are all destined to perish with use, are based on merely human commands and teachings. ²³Such regulations indeed have an appearance of wisdom, with their self-imposed worship, their false humility and their harsh treatment of the body, but they lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence."

- What did Christ nail to the cross?
- How did the cross defeat the "powers and authorities"?
- Considering David's description of the Colossian heresy (see sidebar), what were these Christians tempted to do?
- Verses 20-21 mention human regulations that appear to be wise, but aren't. What kinds of religious commands in our day could be like this?

Do Big

- Read verse 23? How is this different than spiritual disciplines such as fasting, praying, and giving?
- In verse 19, Paul mentions the dangers of "losing connection with the head (Christ)". How is this a danger today?
- What will you do this week to reject false worship and instead connect with the head of the body?

northboulevard.com

LEADERS

Read Colossians 2:12-23

Background:

The "Colossian Heresy" is a term that is used to describe the false teachings that occurred in the early church of Colossae, causing the apostle Paul to write his Epistle to the Colossians.

The exact nature of the heresy is debated and can only be guessed at by the content of Paul's counter-arguments in his letter. There are three broad views on the nature of the heresy. One is that it was a Jewish heresy, with a mystical and ascetic form of Judaism. Another was that it was a syncretic gnostic teaching influenced by Greek philosophy. The third is that it was a mixture of these two.

Key Thoughts

Not all worship points us toward Christ.

Challenge

Each person should take a few minutes and write a private list of charges (sins) that Christ has forgiven. Without showing them to others, find a way to destroy this list (burn it, shred it, etc.) Remember that Jesus nailed these charges to the cross.

Weekly Memory Verse

"And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross."

Colossians 2:15

