

COLOSSIANS 3

1. Is there a difference between God the Father and God the Son and God the Holy Spirit?

-No.

-God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit are one and the same.

-It is only their work which is different.

2. What does it mean that the Lord Jesus is “firstborn” over all creation?

-It means that the Lord Jesus is before everyone and everything in time.

-It also means that the Lord Jesus is greater than everyone and everything which lives.

3. What does it mean that in Christ “all things hold together”?

-It means that Christ is the king and chief and ruler and Lord and God of all of life.

-All of this world is held together by the Lord Jesus.

4. What does it mean that Christ is the firstborn from among the dead?

-It means that the Lord Jesus has conquered death.

5. What does “to reconcile” mean?

-“To reconcile” means to bring back together that which was separated by sin.

6. Does “all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven” mean that all people and Satan and his demons will be saved?

-No.

-“All things, whether things on earth or things in heaven” means that all of creation as well as all who believe in Christ will be reconciled to God.

Let’s read Colossians 2:1

1-I want you to know how hard I am contending for you and for those at Laodicea, and for all who have not met me personally.

-As a true brother in Christ, Paul was very concerned about the faith of the Christians in Colossae and Laodicea.

-In the life of a Christian, where does our concern for others come from?

-From the heart of the Lord Jesus who lives in us.

-The heart of the Lord Jesus which lives in us Christians is greatly concerned for His family in Christ.

-As we learn from Hebrews 7:25, Christ is continually praying for us because He is greatly concerned for us.

-If we Christians do not have concern for other Christians, then what is happening in us?

-We are not allowing the heart of Christ in us to have His perfect way.

Let's read Colossians 2:2-3

2-My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ,

3-in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

-This is God's goal for all people that we may:

-Be encouraged in heart,

-Be united in love.

-Have the full riches of complete understanding.

-Know the mystery of God who is Christ.

-How is Christ the mystery of God?

-All that we need to know about God is found in Christ.

-All of the treasures of wisdom and knowledge about God are found in Christ.

Let's read Colossians 2:4-5

4-I tell you this so that no one may deceive you by fine-sounding arguments.

5-For though I am absent from you in body, I am present with you in spirit and delight to see how disciplined you are and how firm your faith in Christ is.

-False teachers teach using fine-sounding arguments, fancy talk, persuasive speech, or ideas which seem good but are false.

-What will false teachers teach?

-They will teach that the Lord Jesus is not enough, and that they have other wisdom and knowledge which Jesus does not have.

-If the Lord Jesus who is God is not enough for us, then our belief in God is wrong.

-Even though Paul had never met the Colossian Christians, he was blessed by their faith in Christ.

-A strong faith from brothers and sisters in Christ is a blessing to the entire family of God.

Let's read Colossians 2:6-7

6-So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him,

7-rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

-When we first believed in Christ, what did we believe?

-That there was nothing that we could do to save ourselves.

-That Christ alone must save us.

-Now that we believe in Christ, what should we believe?

-That there is nothing that we can do to live the Christian life.

-That Christ in us alone can live the Christian life.

-Some Christians believe in Christ, but then live their lives according to what they want.

-As Christ became our Lord when we first believed, we should live the Christian life with Christ as our Lord.

-This means that we should continue to allow Christ to be completely God in our lives each and every day.

Let's read Colossians 2:8

8-See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ.

-Until Christ returns, there will always be the danger of false teaching in churches.

-It should be the responsibility of every Christian to make sure that the teaching in the churches is according to the Word of God.

Let's read Colossians 2:9-10

9-For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form,

10-and in Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority.

-The fullness of God lives in Christ, and in Christ, we have been brought to His fullness.

-This means that we are complete in Christ.

-If we Christians are complete in Christ, what does this mean?

-That spiritually, we have everything that we need.

-That spiritually, we lack nothing.

-That spiritually, there is nothing else to be added.

-We cannot receive more of Christ for we are already complete.

-We cannot receive more of the Holy Spirit for we are already complete.

-Completeness in Christ is not something that we have to work for.

-Completeness in Christ has already been given to us.

Let's read Colossians 2:11-12

11-In him you were also circumcised with a circumcision not performed by human hands. Your whole self ruled by the flesh was put off when you were circumcised by Christ,

12-having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.

-What is the circumcision not performed by human hands?

-It is a spiritual circumcision by Christ which cuts off our old nature, and gives us a new nature.

-As Christians, we are also spiritually buried and spiritually raised with Christ.

-This is the picture of baptism, being buried beneath the water, and being raised back above the water.

Let's read Colossians 2:13-14

13-When 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,

14-having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross.

-Even though we were dead to God, God made us alive with Christ.

-All of our sin, past, present, and future, has been nailed to the cross where it has been completely paid for.

-We, therefore, are no longer condemned by our sin.

Let's read Colossians 2:15

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

-It is Christ's death on the cross which paid for our sins, and delivered us from the power of sin, death, and Satan.

-Sin, death, and Satan are no longer our chief or king.

-To be united with Christ is to be free from sin, death, and Satan.