

CROSSWINDSINTRODUCTION TO
COLOSSIANS

What is your favorite part of fall?

SERMON REVIEW

God providentially orchestrates our lives so our paths cross the lives of other people we need for spiritual maturity. Onesimus—the run-away slave from Philemon’s house, crossed paths with Paul in the busy city of Rome a city of about 350,000). In Rome, Onesimus became a Christian and help to Paul. God arranged Paul and Onesimus to cross paths so Onesimus would come to Christ and Philemon would learn to forgive his runaway slave. Share a time where God crossed your path with someone he used to bring you to Christ (like Onesimus) or mature your walk in Christ (like Philemon).

In Colossae, the culture of the city became part of the church. It was distorting the truth of Jesus. Pastor Kurt used evolution as an example of modern culture pressing into the church leading many Christians to reinterpret the Genesis account to fit science. This led some Christians no longer believing in an original Adam created in the image of God, and some no longer believe in original sin. Can you think of other ways modern culture presses into the church and leads Christians to dismiss areas of their Bible where culture and the God’s Word are in conflict?

In Scott McKnight’s 2010 cover article in [Christianity Today](#), he claims many young Christians love Jesus but they reject Paul. Some go so far as to claim Paul is homophobic, a sexist, and a bigot. What attitudes have you encountered by contemporary Christians against Paul? Why is it important for us to understand and respect Paul’s authority?

October 8, 2017

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What did it mean for the Christians in Colossae to be “in Christ”? Why was that important for them?

Why is it important for us to think of ourselves as “in Christ”?

Read Ephesians 1:3-14. Paul describes different benefits of our lives being “in Christ”. Which one is your favorite? Why?

Why is it important for a Christian to understand their true identity is a saint, not a sinner?

What happens when we think of ourselves as no different than others apart from Christ when it comes to the power of sin, rather than who we are now recreated to be?

Read Romans 7:21-8:4. While help programs like 12 steps have positive value, why do these programs never truly solve a struggle with sin? What does the Bible say is the only answer?

SERMON QUESTIONS