



Series: Colossians

Passage Colossians 1:1-14

Title Established – Our Inheritance in Jesus

Speaker: Pastor David Menard – 1/20/2019

Discussion Starter

The theme of this week's message was centered on the Colossian's love for one another. Are you able to accept Jesus' love for you? Are you able to accept other people's demonstrated care for you? Why can this sometimes be difficult? What can we remember to make this easier?

Context of Colossians (Verses 1-3)

- Who is the author of Colossians? What is the importance of Paul's title "Apostle"? How does this help us understand Paul's message? Who are the recipients of the letter? Where was Paul when he wrote this letter? What was Paul's connection to the "saints and faithful brethren in Christ who were in Colosse"? (see verse 7, Epaphras) How is Philemon related to this church?

The Fruit of a Transformed Life is Love (Verse 4)

- How does Paul say that the Colossians' faith was made apparent? What was a defining characteristic of the Colossian church? How does that compare to the church of today?
- Read John 13:35. How should this affect your relationships with other believers? How might it impact unbelievers?
- Our faith in Jesus is manifest by our love for each other. What is it that enables Christians to love one another? (not just the Holy Spirit)

Knowing Our Inheritance in Christ (Verse 5)

- What is "the hope which is laid up for you in heaven"? What are some examples we see in scripture describing the different elements of our hope?
- How does the understanding of the gospel message help us love each other? When our lives are established in the gospel of Jesus Christ what happens to us?
- What does it mean to "love each other"? Read Galatians 5:22-26. How is this different from the definition of the world?
- Does understanding God's law or civil law allow us to love each other? What does?

Our Lives are Established by the Gospel of Jesus (verse 6-14)

- What does being "in Christ" mean? How does "being in Christ" define who you are?
- Is it possible to love people in our own strength? How is the story about Peter walking on water related to loving others? Read 14:25-33. Discuss what we can learn about loving from this story.
- Describe some of your own experiences of trying to love others in your own strength.
- What are the six items Paul prayed for the Colossian church? What do they mean? (verses 9-12)