

It's All Connected

2024-08-05 • PASTOR MATT ROSE



Colossians 1:15-20

FOR THE LEADER

These questions help you run the conversation. They are not your study. Get into the passage yourself first, because your group needs what God taught you, not just a list of questions. These also lean on Sunday's message, so a few will not land for anyone who missed it. Watch it before you lead.

WHAT THE MESSAGE WAS ABOUT

Dissatisfaction rarely gets fixed by adding one more good thing to an already overloaded life. Pastor Matt admitted his own gratitude journal asks each morning what would make today better, and he kept writing the same answer: be more productive. Adding was the problem wearing the costume of the solution. Colossians 1 says Christ is the image of the invisible God, and that in him all things hold together, including the parts of a life nobody can actually compartmentalize. Pastor Matt gave four moves: change your image of God, change your foundation, change your frame of reference, and change your authority.

To get started

- What did you add to your life recently hoping it would make things better?

Looking back at the message

The gratitude journal story is the setup: his answer to how to make the day better was be more productive.

- 1 Pastor Matt's gratitude journal asks what would make today better, and his default answer was be more productive. What is your default answer to that question?
- 2 We try to fix dissatisfaction by adding one more promising thing on top of all the things that were already supposed to satisfy. Where do you do that?
- 3 Pastor Matt said nobody can genuinely compartmentalize a life: sleep affects mood, mood affects marriage, everything touches everything. Which compartment have you been trying to keep sealed? OPTIONAL

Looking at the passage

Read Colossians 1:15-20. It is one long sentence about who Christ is.

- 4 Read Colossians 1:15-17. What does this passage claim about Christ's relationship to everything that exists?
- 5 Verse 17 says in him all things hold together. What does that mean for the parts of your life that feel unrelated to each other?
- 6 Read verses 19-20. What is being reconciled, and through what means?
- 7 Read Matthew 7:24-27. Both builders hear the same words. What is the only difference between them? OPTIONAL

Bringing it home

The four changes are image, foundation, frame of reference, authority. Take them one at a time.

- 8 What image of God did you inherit growing up, and how close is it to Jesus in the Gospels?
- 9 Whose voice is currently the loudest authority in your life?
- 10 Pastor Matt described believers facing serious illness with a calm that only makes sense from a different frame of reference: God's got me. Have you seen that up close?
- 11 What is the one thing draining you that you should stop entirely rather than balance better? OPTIONAL

The group together

This launched a series about connection. It is a good place to talk about what the group is for.

- 12 What part of your life would surprise this group if they knew how disconnected it felt from the rest?
- 13 Who in your life has a frame of reference you would actually want?
- 14 How could this group help each other subtract rather than add?

BEFORE YOU FINISH

What is the one thing you will stop doing this week, rather than the one thing you will add?

You might pray about

- For lives that feel overloaded and out of balance
- For a truer picture of who God actually is
- For the courage to subtract