

Here I Stand Stand Together

October 10, 2020 / Jeff Gunn

What are the compelling ideas about which the early leaders of the church were passionate?

¹ I want you to know how much **I have agonized for you and for the church** at Laodicea, and for many other believers who have never met me personally. ² I want them to be **encouraged and knit together by strong ties of love**. **Colossians 2:1-2a, NIV**

Paul wants all of us to stand on the table for love.

I want them to have complete confidence that they understand God's mysterious plan, **which is Christ himself**. ³ In him lie hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

⁴ I am telling you this so no one will deceive you with well-crafted arguments. ⁵ For though I am far away from you, my heart is with you. And I rejoice that you are living as you should and that **your faith in Christ is strong**. **Colossians 2:2b-5, NIV**

Paul wants all of us to stand on the table for Christ.

⁶ And now, just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, **you must continue to follow him**. ⁷ Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. **Then your faith will grow strong** in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness. **Colossians 2:6-7, NIV**

Paul wants all of us to stand on the table for faith.

⁸ Don't let anyone capture you with **empty philosophies** and **high-sounding nonsense** that come from human thinking and from the spiritual powers of this world, rather than from Christ. ⁹ **For in Christ lives all the fullness of God** in a human body. ¹⁰ **So you also are complete through your union with Christ**, who is the head over every ruler and authority.

¹¹ When you came to Christ, you were "circumcised," but not by a physical procedure. Christ performed a spiritual circumcision—the cutting away of your sinful nature. **Colossians 2:8-11, NIV**

Paul wants all of us to stand on the table for "fair dinkum."

¹² For you were buried with Christ when you were baptized. And **with him you were raised to new life** because you trusted the mighty power of God, who raised Christ from the dead.

¹³ **You were dead** because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. **Then God made you alive with Christ, for he forgave all our sins**. ¹⁴ He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵ In this way, he disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross. **Colossians 2:12-15, NIV**

Paul wants all of us to stand on the table for new life.

MEMORY VERSE

³ In him (Christ) lie hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. **Colossians 2:3, NIV**

My next step: I will seek a deeper connection with my church by standing on the table for Christ's wisdom and knowledge.

What's your next step today?

Mark it on your communication card.

My Notes:

Impact Groups

Here I Stand: Stand Together

Getting Started: What is the first movie you remember seeing in a movie theater?

Going back to Sunday

What truth from Sunday's message was most impactful for you? How has the truth made a difference in your thinking, your emotions, or your words and actions this week?

Read Colossians 2:1-3

*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. ² My goal is that they may be **encouraged in heart and knit together by strong ties of 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.*

The Holy Christian Church is all people of all time who believe in Jesus as their Savior. Why is it especially comforting to know you are "knit together with strong ties of love" with other individuals in the Christian Church?

On your smart phone, go to www.persecution.com. Identify one Christian or group of Christians that is suffering and requesting prayer. Have one member lead your group in prayer for them.

Read Colossians 2:8-10

*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**. 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.*

Hollow and deceptive philosophies are those that separate us even after we have been joined in Christ. What are some hollow arguments that are dividing our church today?

Jesus + nothing = everything.

How does focusing on the fullness of the Deity of Christ bring us back into a place of strength and unity?

Doing Life Together: Respond to this statement

You can learn a little about someone by the way they vote,
You can learn much more about someone by how they treat those who vote differently than they do.
Bonus verses if you have time:

Read Colossians 2:12-15

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

How does remembering our adoption into God's family through baptism unite us?

My Next Step

I will not let trivial differences with other brothers and sisters in Christ stand in the way of our Christian unity. Start to restore a strained relationship with a brother or sister by celebrating Christ's forgiveness and praying for them.

Prayer

Pray together as a group for about 10 minutes. Many groups do this in a circle format, allowing each person in the circle to pray or pass as they wish until all have had a chance to pray.

Reminders

CWLK Kids is open for Kindergarten through 5th grade at 9am. Spread the word to your family and friends with kids!

Fall Outreach at CrossWalk: Check the Church Center App.

- Entire month of October: Costume & Trunk contest via social media (more details to come)
- October 17: St. Mary's Emergency Food Box Packing
- November: Feed a Family (more details to come)