

10) Look at verse 16 again. Describe “the message about Christ”? What do you suppose it means when it says “in all it’s riches”.

11) Pastor Paul talked about being obsessive about the Good News. What are some things that we tend to be obsessive about in our lives? Why is it that we as Christ Followers are often afraid to obsess over Christ’s Good News? List some ways you could be Good News obsessive this week. Why do you suppose those things make you feel uncomfortable (or do they)?

12) You are a representative of the Lord Jesus. You are His valuable treasure. He sees you and treats you as Wholly Holy. What or where do you see yourself this week being the “Lord’s Representative”? How or what can (will) you do this week to represent Him?

Remember: We have the precious responsibility to invite others to Wholly Living through our treatment of them as Wholly Holy.

Daily Evaluation:

Consider planning an “evaluation time” with God each day this week:

A few minutes at some point in the day where you slow down long enough to let God speak to you about Wholly Holy.

On a note card or folded piece of paper write down two questions you think God is asking you. (Example: “Is that holy?” “Are you treating what I say is holy as holy?” “What are you facing today that you need a “Holy Reminder”?)

Once you have those questions written down, read over them when you get up in the morning or before you go to bed. (For some the best time to think about these questions is on their drive to work.)

Tell God you are open to His thoughts and direction and that you seek to live Wholly Holy today.

Then ask for His grace and power to live out that commitment.

Celebrate with God the actions, attitudes and moments when you found yourself living Wholly Holy.



Gather & Grow
Discussion Guide

KEY:

1. HOW 2. WHAT

Wholly Gather & Grow Discussion Guide

January 22, 2012



Part Three: Holy Treats

What Do You Do With Holy Things?

Whatever God says is holy, is holy.
It’s not holy unless it’s wholly. It’s all His. We’re all His.
If it’s holy, we should treat it as holy.

All God asks is that we treat what He treats as holy the same way He does.

God says we are His holy people:

“to you who have been called by God to be his own holy people.
He made you holy by means of Christ Jesus” 1 Corinthians 1:2

¹²Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.
¹³Make allowance for each other’s faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. Colossians 3:12-13

¹ you care.

Tenderhearted mercy (*not giving what they deserve*)

Kindness (*giving what they don’t deserve*)

Humility (*realizing I don’t either – see above*)

Gentleness (*my life, under control of God’s Spirit*)

Patience (*do it all again with the right attitude*)

² you care about.

Making allowances:

Forgiving:

How Do I Treat Holy Things Wholly? Five Helps

(1) Learn to value holy things

Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony.
Colossians 3:14

“agape” – placing value and honoring that value

(2) Let Christ’s peace control your core

And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. Colossians 3:15a

(3) Live gratefully

And always be thankful. Colossians 3:15b

(4) Be obsessive about the Good News

Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives. Teach and counsel each other with all the wisdom he gives. Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with thankful hearts.

Colossians 3:16

(5) Have a holy perspective

And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father. Colossians 3:17

Holiness: “forgetting ourselves and our comfort and our prerogatives, we can handle the precious lives of those around us with clean hands.”

John N. Oswalt, Called to Be Holy

We have the precious responsibility to invite others to Wholly Living through our treatment of them as Wholly Holy.

Evaluation and Application

We encourage you to use the following discussion questions in your personal evaluation time with God, with a spiritual journey partner, or in your Growth Group this week.

1) Pastor Paul compared Exodus 19:5 (God speaking to the Nation of Israel) with 1 Corinthians 1:2 (God speaking to members of His Church, *us*); what do you think is the difference between how God treated Israel and how He treats us as members of His church. How do you think we should behave differently today, “now”, than the Israelites were asked to live “then”. (Thought: does living after Jesus died on the cross make any difference?)

2) Pastor asked the following question at the beginning of Sunday’s talk, “Where do you think you would be if God didn’t treat you as His own special treasure?” Think about that question and share your answer.

3) “God wants to live in a love relationship with us and in us; then He wants to love others through us.” That’s God’s purpose for Wholly Holy. Share what you might tell someone if they asked you what it meant to “live a holy life”.

4) We discovered from Colossians chapter three that to be Wholly Holy means treating others as holy by how you care and what you care about.

Define again each of the five ways we are to show care for others:

tenderhearted mercy

kindness

humility

gentleness

patience

Look at the list again. Personally rank the list in the order of most difficult to easiest for you at the present time. How could you use your “strength” to develop greater care in the more difficult areas?

5) Colossians 5:13 speaks about “making allowance” and “forgiving” based on how the Lord Jesus forgives us. Describe a situation where you feel God has shown grace and forgiven you and how, because of that, how you have show grace and forgiven someone else. Would you be willing to share a situation where you’re struggling to show either grace or forgiveness at present?

6) Colossians 3:14 tells us that love (agape) both binds and creates harmony. We discovered that this kind of agape love is based on the value we place in people. How do you think placing value (versus seeing value) in someone can bind us to them and create harmony between us?

7) “Let the peace that comes from Christ rule your hearts...you are called to live in peace.”

- What’s the difference between Christ’s peace and how our culture defines peace?
- What would it look like if “peace controlled your core being”. Give a specific example from your life.
- The passage ties our peace from Christ with peace with other people. How does that show itself in our daily life? How do you suppose you can live in peace with “un-peaceful people”?

8) Three times in the third chapter of Colossians (and one more time at the beginning of chapter four) we are told to be thankful. How do you see being thankful tied to treating things as God treats them?

9) Colossians 3:16 gives an entire list of things to do with the Good News of Christ. Go slowly through each action (fill, teach, counsel, sing) and discuss how doing each will allow your life to be filled with the message of Christ.