



Opening Up:

Where in your life do you feel most confident about your gifts? When do you feel successful?

In what context do you feel most insecure about your capacities?

When have you been made most aware of your need for Jesus?

Read: Colossians 1:15-23

Discuss:

1. In Colossians 2:8-10 Paul address a problem in the local church. He says that they had a philosophy that was based on "human tradition" and spirituality (i.e. "elemental spirits") and "not according to Christ." It was a Jesus+ theology. In other words something other than Jesus was added to salvation. What are some pluses that we sometimes add to salvation through Jesus?
2. In Colossians 2:20-23 Paul talks about human traditions and religious effort. How does religious effort appear to be wise? Why does religion have no ability to change the "indulgence of the flesh?"
3. In verses 15-18 Paul speaks about the preeminence of Jesus. What evidence of Jesus' preeminence does Paul point to? Why is it important the Jesus is preeminent?
4. What is the gospel?
5. How can we sometimes accept the gospel in concept and yet reject it in form? (In other words we may say it is "Jesus alone that saves," yet we act like it is Jesus plus something else.)
6. In verses 19-23 we see the sufficiency of Jesus to reconcile our broken relationship with God. How does Jesus reconcile this relationship?
7. What does this teach us about forgiveness?
8. Why is it hard to forgive?
9. Who do you need to forgive? How does the gospel help you to forgive? Do you believe Jesus has forgiven you of everything you have done? Have accept that forgiveness in every area of your life? Is it hard to recieve Jesus' forgiveness?
10. Pray.