



## Connect: discussion guide

---

**WELCOME:** *We are continuing in a series based on Paul's letter to the Colossians. Paul probably sent the letter when in jail, possibly in Rome in 60-62AD, at a similar time to writing to the Philippians.*

**Read the passage Col 3:1-4:1 around your group listen to what is said:**

*Remember that Paul's prayer to the Colossians isn't seeking easier circumstances — consider what Paul says is already true, what he calls us to do and what kind of community Jesus is forming in us.*

**The first part of the message was about considering the Scriptures in their context**

- What does it mean to you to consider “context” when reading the Bible?

**Read John 1:1, 1:14 and Rev 3:19**

- What does it mean to you that Jesus is the Word, not just someone who speaks it?
- How does seeing Scripture as pointing to Jesus change the way we read passages like Colossians 3?
- Why is it important to remember the original cultural context Paul was writing into?
- How does Jesus' loving correction (Rev 3:19) shape how we approach relationships today?

**1. Relationships in Christ put others first. Read Col 3:12-17**

- Which of the qualities in Colossians 3:12–17 do you find easiest or hardest to live out?
- What does it practically look like to “put others first” in everyday life (home, church, work)?
- How does mutual submission challenge our natural instincts?
- Why do you think love is described as what binds everything together?

**2. Relationships in Christ redefine power. Read Col 3:18-22**

- What stands out to you about how Paul addresses both sides of relationships (not just one)?
- How does understanding “hypotassō” (submit; surrender) as a voluntary posture change how you hear this passage?
- In what ways can power be used unhealthily in relationships today?
- What does it look like to practice agapē love (as a choice, not just a feeling) in real situations?

### **3. Relationships in Christ redefine power. Read Col 3:23 – 4:1**

- How does seeing Jesus as **present in every relationship** change your mindset?
- What difference does it make to work or serve “as for the Lord”?
- Where is it hardest for you to live this out right now?
- How does this passage challenge the divide between “spiritual” and “ordinary” life?

#### **Applications you can put into practice this week**

1. **Identity practice:** Each day this week, choose one relationship where you will intentionally serve or honour the other person.
2. **Redefine Power:** Choose one situation in the week where you can choose to lay down control and choose love instead.
3. **Live as if Jesus is present (*which He is*):** Before a key interaction pause and pray: “Jesus help me love like you love in this moment.”

***NOTE: Flourishing relationships aren't built on perfect people. They're built on people surrendered to Jesus, learning to love like He loves.***

#### **Pray together:**

Father God, we thank You for Paul's example of what it means to live a Christ centred Christian life, what it looks like for us to centre our relationships in Christ.

Lord Jesus, thank you that you are our life and that our real life is hidden with you in God.

Holy Spirit help us in the work of renewing our minds as we learn to know our Creator and become like him – becoming the people we were each created to be.

God grant us grace to put to death what doesn't belong to you and to put on the new self you've given us. We pray that we might hear more clearly the voice of the Holy Spirit and have the spiritual insight to perceive what you are already doing, that we might join in with You. We pray for the leaders of our church, the leaders of nations in an increasingly divided world, for our neighbourhood, our city, our nation, and the nations of the world and for clarity about our part in taking the good news of Jesus to our world. Amen.