



Grace Group Guide

United Purpose: Together we will designate time and place to deepening our desire for God, caring for and urging each other to action!

United Actions: WL Groups...

- Scripture:** Be in the Word together
- Encouragement:** One another each other
- Prayer:** With and for each other and the lost
- Accountability:** Now What? Put it into action!

Icebreaker(s): If you had to describe the Christian life in one sentence, what would you say? And why?

Transition: There are many ways you could have answered this question, because the New Testament describes the Christian life in several different ways. The Christian life involves deepening our faith, practicing obedience, growing in holiness, remaining steadfast through trial, clinging to hope, and many other things you may have listed as a group. However, there is one truth about the Christian life that underlies all of these and puts them in their proper place: the Christian life is a life lived *with* God. That's what we're going to see this morning as we read through part of Colossians.

-Discussion-

READ Colossians 1:24-2:7

- **What stood out to you in this passage as you read it?**
 - **Possible Answers:** many!

Transition: We are going to focus on two key truths: 1) that the mystery "is Christ in you, the hope of glory" (Col. 1:27), and 2) that our lives are to be "rooted and built up in him" (Col. 2:6).

- **When Paul says Christ is "in" us in v.27, what does He mean?**
 - **Possible Answers:**
 - Christ's presence with us,
 - our union with Christ,
 - the Holy Spirit's indwelling presence (for more on this, read Rom. 8:9)
- **In v. 27, why does Paul connect Christ's being "in" us to hope?**
 - **Possible Answers:**
 - Our union with Christ *now* foreshadows our full conformity to Christ in the *future*... and in fact, we see that this process is already happening! (for more on this, read Rom. 8:29, 2 Cor. 3:18)
- **In Col. 2:6-7, Paul says that our lives must be "rooted" and "built up" in Christ. What does this mean?**
 - **Key Answer:** our lives should be marked by a reliance upon/abiding in Christ (remember Jn. 15 from last week!). The Christian life is a life lived *WITH* Christ. Just as we *received* Christ as Lord (v. 6), we are to continually "walk" in him!

-Reflection-

- Why do these truths matter? Why is it important to recognize that the Christian life is about our union with Christ and our rootedness in Him? What are other ways of viewing the Christian life that might be unhelpful (or maybe just incomplete)?

- Brainstorm as a group: what does a life “rooted” and “built up” in Christ look like? Then consider whether or not your life can be described as “rooted” and “built up” in Christ.

-Application-

- Drawing from your answers to the above questions, choose one practical action step to take this week that will help you be more rooted in Christ.
- Colossians 2:6-7 are crucial verses in Colossians and will be repeated throughout the upcoming sermon series... so, consider memorizing these verses!

-Pray-

- Praise God for the truths you read through in Colossians—that Christ is *in* you and God is *with* you—and ask Him to help you and your group stay rooted in Christ.