

Rooted and Built Up—Reconciled

Study Questions

Colossians 1:21-23

Warm-up

1) We have all gone through periods where we struggled to learn a skill, until we found we could do it almost effortlessly. Walking and reading are common, as are riding a bike, playing an instrument, or driving a car (stick shift?). **Name a difficult-to-learn skill that you still rely on today. What do you remember about the struggle you went through to learn the skill?**

Why do you think it eventually became easier to use that skill?

A little deeper

2) [Colossians 1:21] We were once God's enemies in our thoughts and actions, originating with Adam and Eve. **Read Genesis 3:1-13 very closely. In which ways did Adam and Eve change their thoughts, actions, priorities, and motives after Satan talked to them through the serpent?**

Do these same things happen with people today? If so, what are some examples?

3) [Colossians 1:22] We have been brought back to God through the death of Jesus. Before any change we would make in our own thoughts or actions, Jesus has already done the work of our salvation for us. **When people try to justify themselves by their words or actions, what motives are they working from? How are these motives like what caused the fall of Adam and Eve? How do our motives change when we rely on Jesus?**

4) [Colossians 1:23] Our salvation depends not on what we do physically, but on our response in faith (which also comes from God). **What does it mean to be established and firm in our faith?**

Read Ephesians 3:16-19, and then read Romans 2:4 to get a sense for what Paul means by God's "riches". What does God use to establish faith and love in our hearts? What is our responsibility in the process?

Bringing it home

5) **In what areas of your life are you still trying to justify yourself?** (Some examples: working to human-set standards at work to get ahead, hiding sin or even just differences of opinion from loved ones to maintain the status-quo or avoid rejection.) **What would it look like to let go of your own efforts, and let Jesus redeem you in that part of your life?**

6) Because of the work Jesus did for our redemption, we are now blameless in God's sight. **Are you holding onto any guilt or self-blame, even though God has let go of it? What is your motive for holding onto it still—what value does it have for other parts of your life (such as how much you value yourself)?**

7) Because of the work Jesus did for our redemption, *other* followers of Jesus are now blameless in God's sight. **Is there anyone you're not fully forgiving (recognizing that certain conditions do call for reduced *trust*)?**