

Self-disclosure Questions/Icebreakers

What were you doing, if you can remember, when you first heard about the towers being attacked on 9/11?

Scripture – Colossians 1:1-14

Suggested Prayer

Father in heaven, we thank you that you are good and that all you do is good and right. In light of so much evil that takes place in the world every day, help us to understand from your Word the significance of Your son, Jesus Christ, and how to live faithfully before you, bearing much fruit.

Sermon Take-Away – If you need/want to review it, Pastor Colin talked about...

1. Why is the world as it is today?
 - a. God made man upright
 - b. God made man upright, but he also made him free.
 - c. Man chose to sin.
2. Three Points of Application
 - a. Stop blaming God for what's wrong with the world.
 - b. Start confessing that you are far from upright.
 - c. Put your hope in the One who is upright.

What was your take-away from this week's sermon?

Discussion Questions – Choose as few or as many as you'd like.

1. Scripture teaches that something is horribly wrong in the world. As Colin pointed out, Scripture also teaches that human sin is to blame, not God. What events on the local news point to what is wrong with the world?

2. Read Ecclesiastes 7:29. Pastor Colin taught that though God made Adam upright He also made him free. How should the truth of man's sinfulness inform the way you discuss the tragedies of 9/11 in conversations that will surely take place over the next few weeks?

3. The second point of application in the sermon was: "Start confessing that you are far from upright." Pastor Colin then quoted Matthew Henry who wrote, "A sound conviction of one

sin will put us upon enquiring into the whole confederacy.” Is there a sin that you need to start acknowledging as sin? Is there a sin that you need to continue to acknowledge as sin? Why is acknowledging this sin so important?

4. Pastor Colin said, “Every time you see the . . . destructive power of evil breaking out in the world, use this to cultivate a greater hatred towards sin in your life. Say to yourself “the root of this thing lies in me!” How would adopting this habit change your attitude before God? How would it change your posture towards other people?
5. Read 1 Peter 3:18. Why, in light of the sermon, is putting your hope in the One who is upright so utterly essential?
6. There are really three truths to take away from this sermon. First, God made man upright. Second, the world is filled with evil because man sinned, not God. Third, God sent his righteous Son into the world to die and rise for unrighteous men.

Now, it’s really important to believe all three of these truths at the same time. Imagine you are someone who has never been to church before and you show up on a Sunday morning to a church that only believes the first truth, what kind of people would you meet? What if the church you come to only believes the second truth, and not the first or third, what kind of people would you find there? Now, what would characterize the people at this church if *all three truths* were embraced?

Suggested Closing Prayer

Read the following words from the famous hymn, “My Hope is Built on Nothing Less” and then spend some time praying with and for one another:

*“When He shall come with trumpet sound,
Oh, may I then in Him be found;
Dressed in His righteousness alone,
Faultless to stand before the throne”*

