



Colossians reveals that Paul doesn't just want to bring people to Christ; He wants to bring people to maturity in Christ. And Paul knows the fruits of faith, joy and love grow when a disciple is firmly grounded in all that Jesus is. So he calls on believers then and now to go deeper in Christ...to be **ROOTED**.

**These questions are designed to extend the impact of the weekend message. Use them to go deeper in your personal study time, with your family and/or with a group.**

**1** Rick began by reminding us that *"Baptism does not drown the devil. If he was not able to keep you from coming to Christ, he will do all he can to keep you from coming to maturity in Christ."* **Read Colossians 3:1-17.** What are a couple of things that stand out to you the most from this passage (note the significance of the baptismal imagery)?

**2 "YOUR LIFE IS NOW HIDDEN WITH CHRIST"**  
**Rooted believers give evidence of their new residence.** *We can no longer live like we used to live because we no longer live where we used to live.* **Read Colossians 3:1-4.** What are the implications of having a life that is hidden with Christ? Follow up: What are some practical ways you set your mind on things above? How has that impacted the way you live for Christ today?

**3 "PUT ON THE NEW SELF" Eliminate deeds and desires that no longer fit.** *If the enemy could not keep you out of the water, he will try to send you back into your closet.* **Read Colossians 3:5-9.** How do these verses show the tension between the change in who we are (and whose we are) and the changes that still need to take place in our thoughts and actions?

**4** Rick shared 2 practical pieces of advice for learning how to dress for your new address: (1) *Believe you can because union with Christ has released you from sin's grip* (**Read Romans 6:4-6**). (2) *Stop shopping at the places where you got your old clothes* (**Read Romans 13:14**). How have both of these been helpful to you in your journey towards maturity in Christ (share some

practical examples)? Follow up: When are you most tempted to put on your old clothes or to believe you can't break free from sin's grip?

**5 "PUT ON THE NEW SELF" Cultivate virtues that reflect the new you.** **Read Colossians 3:10-14.** Which one of these virtues is the most comfortable for you to wear and which one is the most challenging for you to put on? Follow up: What is your role in putting on the new self and how do you rely on the Holy Spirit in this process?

**6 "PUT ON THE NEW SELF" Participate in communal practices that keep you rooted in Christ.** *God does not give birth to orphans, but immediately places new children in a spiritual family.* How has being connected with a spiritual family been a blessing to you? Follow up: *Paul reminds them to embrace the practices that set our hearts and minds on things above... and do it together.* **Read Colossians 3:15-16.** Which of these practices have kept you rooted in Christ the most? Why is it crucial for us to *do life together*?

**7** Rick closed by reminding us that *"At baptism you got a new jersey... As you mature in Christ you realize that anything else you wear either displays or dishonors that jersey. That's why rooted believers live the 'whatever life' wherever they are."* **Read Colossians 3:17.** Take a moment to ask the Spirit to reveal any area or activity in your life that might not glorify God. What next step do you need to take in light of this?

