

UNITED IN CHRIST

SDG DISCUSSION GUIDE

“Keeping Christ in the Center” | 09 JAN 2022

We are an international community from diverse backgrounds, cultures, and denominations bound together by our common commitment to exalt the person and work of Jesus Christ.

*Please read **Colossians 2:6-12**.*

Then watch the weekly video and discuss the following questions.

⁶ Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him,
⁷ rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

⁸ See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. ⁹ For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily,
¹⁰ and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority.
¹¹ In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, ¹² having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead.

A Christ-Centered Life:

1) Paul says in Colossians 2:6, “as you received Christ.....so walk in Him.” What do you think it means to “receive” Christ? Share how you “received” Christ. Was it sudden? Was it through hearing about Him as you were growing up? Was it through a friend? Was it through a crisis? What caused you to “receive” Him? Verses for further consideration: John 1:12-13, John 1:11

2) What do you think Paul means when he tells the Colossian church to “walk in Christ”, “be rooted in Christ” and “be built up” in Christ? How do you think we are to help each other build?

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3) Do you sometimes struggle keeping a Christ-Centered focus? Why do many Christians struggle with this kind of focus? Pastor Chad mentioned that the phrase “takes captive” (vs. 8) is a military term in the Greek language. Why do you think Paul uses such strong imagery here?

4) What are some of the things that Paul mentions that might take you captive from having a Christ-centered life? Can you think of any other things that can take you captive?

- Read Luke 8:4-14: What does Jesus say about the seed that fell among the thorns? How can the distractions that Jesus mentions undermine a Christ-Centered life?
- Read Hebrews 12:1-2: What instruction does the author give to keep a Christ-Centered outlook?

A Christ-Centered Church:

5) What is your normal procedure on a Sunday morning before attending church? How do you prepare yourself to encounter Christ when you come to church?

6) Do you believe it is possible that a church can lose its focus too? Compare the church of Ephesus (Revelation 2:4) with the church of Pergamum (Revelation 2:13). What differences do you see between them? How did they become so different?

7) What are some things that can distract a church from being a Christ-Centered Church?

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8) Considering all the Bible verses that you have studied above, what steps can be taken to cultivate and keep a Christ-Centered life/church?

9) What action steps can you take to regularly encourage each other to be a Christ-Centered SDG? (Bible verse)

Spend some time praying for others in your group that they might live a Christ-Centered life. Pray for UCM that it would not forget its first love, but that it would always cherish and honor Christ first in its mission and message.

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CENTERED ON THE GOSPEL

In all things, we proclaim and live out the good news of what God has done and is doing in Christ.

MOBILIZED FOR MISSION

We share the good news and pursue the advancement of God's Kingdom in our communities, our cities, and the nations.



ROOTED IN SCRIPTURE

We devote ourselves to understanding, obeying, and delighting in God's Word.

CALLED TO RENEWAL

We seek to cultivate Spirit-empowered restoration and transformation in our communities.