

This study guide is designed to help you dig deeper into the weekend message and apply it to your life. The questions below are meant to encourage thoughtful reflection, discussion, and prayer for you and your group. If you missed the message (or want to hear it again) go to fopc.org/sermon or download the Fair Oaks Church App.

PRAY [Have someone open in prayer]

Pray for this study and for what is going on in each others lives.

MESSAGE SUMMARY

This week at Fair Oaks Church we continued our series *Colossians*—the importance of being rooted in the Bible and connected to the local church.

KEY SCRIPTURE [Read aloud]

²¹ Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior.

²² But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation— ²³ if you continue in your faith, established and firm, and do not move from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant.

²⁴ Now I rejoice in what I am suffering for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church. ²⁵ I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness— ²⁶ the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the Lord's people. ²⁷ To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

²⁸ He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ. ²⁹ To this end I strenuously contend with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me. **Colossians 1:21-29 (NIV)**

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is something that stood out to you in this week's message?
2. What is reconciliation? How is it different than forgiveness? What are a few moments of reconciliation in your life? Is there any area of your life you need reconciliation?
3. How did Jesus initiate your reconciliation? (How did you come to faith?)
4. What is the Gospel? Why does Paul call it a mystery?
5. How do you become mature in Christ? If our goal is to present believers mature in Christ, what would need to change in your life to increase your maturity or faith?
6. Reread 2:6-7, what does it mean to be "rooted" in Christ? How is it that you can strengthen your roots? How would that impact your maturity in Christ?

PRAY