

Personal/Group Training Guide
Week of 10/14/18

“Who Are You?”
“The Shift”

- (1) In each of the last two sermons, one of the Scripture references was 2 Corinthians 4:6-7. Read and discuss these verses. What is the treasure Paul speaks of? What does the reference that we are but “jars of clay” mean to you? Why is it significant to remember this?
- (2) Read Colossians 2:20-23. Paul is addressing the issue of the religious false self, which performs acts and duties that are based on human teachings, rather than teachings of Christ. Give some examples of what a religious false self might look like in our current culture and time. Why does Paul warn against such actions/behaviors?
- (3) Read Colossians 3:1-4. Discuss verses 1-2 in relation to the point made in the sermon that, “Our true self is a life shaped by kingdom values.” Name or write down some examples of what you believe to be kingdom values.
- (4) Paul is telling us to strive for (set our hearts toward) something else/a different way of being. Though we cannot achieve this based solely on our own efforts, it does require a shift in motive from our false self. Discuss this – compare this striving that Paul talks about versus that which we strive for when we are motivated by our false self.
- (5) Read Colossians 3:3-4. Discuss this in relation to the striving that Paul talks about in verses 1-2. What enables us to reorient our inner being/our striving? Compare this with what Paul states in 2 Corinthians 5:17.
- (6) What does Paul mean by the statement that, “your life is now hidden with Christ in God.” How does this relate to what he wrote in Galatians 2:19-20?
- (7) Read Paul’s prayer in Ephesians 3:16-19. Verse 17 is the crux of the matter when it comes to life in union with God. How does this verse relate to a life hidden with Christ? What motivated Christ to live the life he lived? What motivated him to go to the cross for us? What does a life “rooted and established in love” look like for us now?
- (8) Ephesians 3:19 states, “To know this love that surpasses knowledge.” How can we know something that surpasses knowledge? (Think in regard to living as our true self.)
- (9) In the sermon, I used the illustration of thinking of our self as a pipe with both ends open. One end is life in union with God, and the other end represents loving service for others. Explain how this illustration depicts a life hidden in Christ. How does this relate to what Paul stated in Eph. 3:19 as being filled with the fullness of God?
- (10) In his book *The Deeper Journey*, Robert Mulholland states that in regard to the struggle of surrendering our false self/our need for control that, “We can’t stand the ambiguity of not knowing what God is going to make of us.” Do you agree with his statement? Why or why not?