

## Finding Peace in the Madness

*We live in what seems like a mad, mad world. We're under threat of nuclear war (deja vu from the Cold War years), violence across the US is up up up, and the politicians are more interested in their rhetoric than they are in doing their jobs. And then there's Christianity that says, "Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts." Yeah, like that's going to happen! This week we'll explore the question Does Christianity really have the answers to personal peace?*

Colossians 3:15–17

1. We can't \_\_\_\_\_ peace into our lives.
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ is a promise based on \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Peace rules in our hearts when we \_\_\_\_\_ the "things above."

### ***My Count Me In! Commitments***

- I'll be here next Sunday
- I'll invite a friend
- I'll read the whole book of Colossians this week
- I'll watch the *How to Read Colossians* on Right Now Media this week
- I'll choose one issue from Col 3:8-9 to focus on overcoming this week

### **Additional Notes**

## Digging Deeper and Going Further

Read Colossians 2:6–15 and 3:1–15. Paul’s letter to the church in Colossae was written to deal with the church’s response to the pressures they were facing from the culture. The societal culture was caught up in a number of popular philosophies and practices that were creeping their way into the church. As you read, you’ll see the word “hidden” and “hide” mentioned several times. These words were chosen by Paul as a play on words because some of the cultural philosophies spoke of their teachings being “hidden” within their secret books. Our knowledge isn’t “hidden” in books, but our lives are hidden in Jesus Christ himself.

1. In Colossians 2:6, what do you think it means to “receive” Christ Jesus as Lord?

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2. In 2:8 Paul is concerned that the church is being deceived by what two sources?

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3. In 2:10 and 2:15, Jesus is called the head “over every power and authority.” This is a reference to the “elemental spiritual forces of the world.” Why do you think it is important to understand that Jesus has power over every spiritual force?

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4. In 2:10–12, how do we obtain “fullness” in Jesus Christ?

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5. Read Colossians 3:1–4. In what ways are Christians “raised with Christ”?

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6. The words *set your hearts and minds* literally mean to *seek* or to *search for*. What are the practices mentioned in 3:12–14 we’re invited to search for?

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7. In 3:5–11 we’re told to abstain from destructive habits. Which one/s are you struggling with right now?

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8. Read 3:15. What do you need to do in order to achieve this promised peace?

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