

God Time Day 1: Struggle in Colossae



Have there been times in your life when you demonstrated your faith differently in order to blend in or be more accepted by others?

Paul is writing this letter to the church in Colossae because of a struggle. Living under Roman rule meant living according to their laws. As long as you worshiped Caesar as god/king, all religions could be added to the Roman pantheon of gods. This meant that all religions were accepted as true. This became a problem as early Christians began blending aspects of other religions with the exclusivity of Christ to be more accepted and less controversial.



Read 1 John 2:15-17.

¹⁵Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride in one’s possessions—is not from the Father, but is from the world. ¹⁷And the world with its lust is passing away, but the one who does the will of God remains forever.

Circle the word “love” in verse 15 (three times).

Draw a line through what we are not supposed to love.

Draw a box around how we are to show our love to God (verse 17b).



Now, read Romans 12:2.

Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.

Reread the question at the top of this page. Write down how you are tempted to conform.

Pray for God to give you the strength to remain steadfast in your faith, not to be conformed to the culture or temptations of the world, and to do His will.

God Time Day 2: Faith, Hope, and Love



Read Colossians 1:3-4.

³We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, ⁴for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all the saints.

Paul opens his letter to the church of Colossae by giving them some praise. Though he has never visited this church himself, their reputation of being a people of faith and love has reached his ears in prison.

Underline the words “faith” and “love” in verse 4.

When Paul speaks about the faith of the church, the evidence of that faith is the love they have for one another.

Now read what Jesus said in John 13:35.

By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.

Do people recognize faith in your life? How?

God Time Day 3: Faith Leads to Love



Read Colossians 1:4-6a.

⁴for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all the saints ⁵because of the hope reserved for you in heaven. You have already heard about this hope in the word of truth, the gospel ⁶that has come to you.

Hope is a powerful force, motivating people to overcome adversity, and encouraging them to carry on when life becomes tedious. It is our hope of heaven, through our faith in Jesus, that motivates us to express love for others.

Write down the names of two people you know that could use the hope of Jesus Christ in their lives.



Pray for opportunities to demonstrate your faith by showing them some love.

God Time Day 4: Where is Your Hope?

In Day 3, we talked about the power of hope. Hope can inspire people in amazing ways, but hope placed in the wrong things can be very dangerous.



Read Romans 3:23-24, 27.

²³ For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴ they are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. . . . ²⁷ Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By one of works? No, on the contrary, by a law of faith.

People will often put their hope in morality or their ability to be good enough. But according to the verse above, who is sinless according to God's law?

Another common place for people to put their hope is in "living their best life," which is often measured in material possessions or the pursuit of enjoyment.

Read what King Solomon, a man who had everything in his time, had to say about that hope in Ecclesiastes 2:10-11.

¹⁰ All that my eyes desired, I did not deny them. I did not refuse myself any pleasure, for I took pleasure in all my struggles. This was my reward for all my struggles. ¹¹ When I considered all that I had accomplished and what I had labored to achieve, I found everything to be futile and a pursuit of the wind. There was nothing to be gained under the sun.

According to King Solomon, such pursuits are "futile." In other words, they were empty, meaningless, and temporary.

Now, reread Colossians 1:4-6a from Day 3.

When we put our hope in Jesus, the eternal and everlasting God, we have a hope that is full of meaning and purpose. After all, hope springs from our faith and love, and these are not just feelings.



Faith and love need to be demonstrated and poured into others if they are to have any purpose in our lives.

God Time Day 5: Demonstrate, Declare, and Disciple



Read Colossians 1:6b.

It is bearing fruit and growing all over the world, just as it has among you since the day you heard it and came to truly appreciate God's grace.

Let's begin with a few Yes/No questions:

- When you discover an amazing restaurant with amazing food, do you tell anyone about it? Yes No
- When you fall in love and get married, do you invite friends and family to celebrate with you? Yes No
- If you know the greatest source of hope and salvation that can literally save people, do you share it as much as possible? Yes No

When you have that eternal hope in Jesus Christ, seeing people living without that hope should be gut-wrenching. After all, you can imagine what it would be like to live without that hope, and your life is different now.

When you experience the goodness of the hope you have because of your faith in Jesus, from that comes love (a love for God and a love for people). When that faith and love are inside of you, it comes flowing out of your life as you demonstrate God's love in your life by pouring into others. Not only do you *demonstrate God's love*, but you also *declare good news* by telling people about the hope you have. As you do this, lives are touched, and you *make disciples*, teaching them how to demonstrate and declare this hope, faith, and love just as you did.

On Day 3, you wrote down the names of two people who could use the hope of Jesus Christ in their lives and began to pray for opportunities to demonstrate your faith and love with them. Now, it is time "*to truly appreciate God's grace*" and put it into action.

When you *demonstrate God's love*, are you prepared to *declare the good news* if they ask? Yes No

Help is available in the "tools" section at cbcfamily.net/go2.