



# theridgechurch

**The Ridge Church**  
**Life Group Questions**  
**Sunday, April 25, 2010**  
**Colossians 3:1-4**

1. Defining culture as, *“the sum total of thoughts or beliefs, values, attitudes, and behaviors that are transmitted through from one generation to another,”* what are the elements of our culture (whether your group thinks broadly about Western culture or narrows it down to our North Dallas subculture or the culture of evangelicalism) that you think pose the greatest challenges for followers of Jesus? In other words, what is some of the “stuff” that is thrown at us by our culture that makes it hard to keep Jesus as the center of our lives?

Have someone keep track of different ideas that are presented then take a few moments to see if there is an idea, or perhaps a few different ideas, that many in your group would agree upon as a significant challenge.

2. Assuming your group is able to come to some consensus on at least one element of our culture that poses a significant challenge to Christians, what would it look like to actually follow Colossians 3:1 in terms of “seeking the things above?” What are the principles, values, and practices of the kingdom of God that would equip and enable us to meet this particular challenge? (If your group didn’t come to consensus on a cultural challenge, use “materialism.”)
3. Continuing on with the same cultural challenge(s) and the Kingdom principles/values/practices that would help us transform our thinking, what does it actually look like to “set our minds” on these things? How do we know when we have moved from seeking to setting, from desiring the things above to actually concentrating on and living out the things above?
4. Does anyone have a reflection or testimony of the way in which God has been faithful to them in the process of “seeking and setting their mind on things above?” In other words, can anyone look back at their life and say, a la Romans 12:2, “As my mind was renewed, I was transformed, and no longer conformed to the world in this way, and here’s what I’ve discovered about God’s will?” Who can share an encouraging story about the value of persevering in “seeking/setting?”
5. Colossians 3:3 is stated as a fact, as something that is already accomplished: “For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.” How can knowledge of these facts help us in our day-to-day life? How can we keep these facts in front of us when it might feel as though they are not true? (For example, though it’s a fact that we have “died,” we are still tempted by things in this world; although our life is hidden and therefore has value, lousy stuff still happens to us. How do we reconcile the temptations and trials of life with these facts?)
6. How does 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 4:16 (“Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day.”) relate to the fact Paul presents in Colossians 3:3 (“For you have died...”)?
7. Ecclesiastes 7:8a notes, “The end of a matter is better than its beginning...,” and Paul writes in 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 4:17, “For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.” (NIV). How do these two passages relate to Colossians 3:4? What can you do to hold onto and practice elements of “the culture of the Kingdom of heaven” such as hope, faith, and perseverance?