



Engage Bible Study Guide

Session 26 | Colossians 2:6-23 | March 22, 2021

>> OPEN

- As a kid, what did you think a “religious” person was like? How did you feel about that type of person?
- Did you consider your parents “permissive” or “strict”? Why? Did they have a lot of rules for you, or just a few? Which rule was the most important?

>> DIG

- What does “living in Christ” (verse 6) entail (see 1:1-10)? What does the phrase “rooted and built up” imply to you?
- What are “the basic principles of this world” (verses 8, 20) and the “powers and authorities” (verses 10, 15)? How did Christ give the Colossians victory over these things?
- What kind of circumcision is done by Christ (verses 9-13)? How did he do it (verses 12-15)?

>> APPLY

- What is the result of trying to base one’s relationship with God on rule-keeping?
- When have you felt like the “roots” of your faith in Christ were barely below the surface? What helped you sink those roots deeper?
- What additions to the faith have you encountered from people who try to encourage you to be “more spiritual”?
- What convinced you that trying to live up to religious rules couldn’t change you on the inside? In what area do you want to apply Paul’s solution this week?



>> BONUS

We can guard against self-made religions human commands and teachings by asking six questions of any religious group or organization. Which of these is most helpful to you?

1. Does it stress self-made rules and taboos rather than God's grace?
2. Does it foster a critical spirit about others, or does it exercise discipline discreetly and lovingly?
3. Does it stress formulas, secret knowledge, or special visions more than the word of God?
4. Does it elevate self-righteousness, honoring those who keep the rules, rather than elevating Christ?
5. Does it neglect Christ's universal church, claiming to be an elite group?
6. Does it teach humiliation of the body as a means to spiritual growth rather than focusing on the growth of the whole person?