Colossians

Lesson 3: Our Connection to the World

**Lessons in this series:** [1](http://www.teensundayschool.com/76/lesson/christs-connection-to-god...-hes-him.php) [2](http://www.teensundayschool.com/78/lesson/our-connection-to-christ.php) **3**[4](http://www.teensundayschool.com/100/lesson/our-connection-to-each-other.php)

LESSON OBJECTIVES  
Goals

1. For students to become familiar with Colossians 3  
2. For students to discover a higher standard of living for their lives  
3. For students to actively put to death sin in their lives

Topics

Boldness, Evangelism, Fruitfulness, Influence, Responsibility, Witnessing

Scripture Memorization

Colossians 3:5

OPENING PRAYER (5 to 10 minutes)

GROUP BUILDING (5 minutes)

**Discussion Question**

If you were an alien and you landed on earth, and you had to report back to your chief alien what you saw, what would be some characteristics that you noticed in humans?

*(There’s a space for this in their workbooks. Encourage them to notice behaviors, appearances, etc.)*

GETTING STARTED (10 minutes)

**Discussion Questions**1. What does it mean to you to be “worldly”?  
2. Do you think this is a good or bad thing? Why/why not?

In Colossians 3, Paul hits on this very idea. In the verses we’re going to read this week, he encourages the reader to be different from the world around him or her.

DIGGING IN (30 minutes)

What we’re getting at here is the question, “What’s the difference?” What makes Christians different from everyone else? What should set us apart?

Sometimes differences are obvious and sometimes they are subtle. When you read this chapter of Colossians, it seems like the differences between us and the world are supposed to very noticeable.

Optional Activity (10 minutes)

If you have internet capabilities in your meeting space, or if you do some legwork ahead of class, there is a website where you can upload pictures and get celebrity look-a-like matches. It requires a free membership (although you can do a demo without one), but sometimes the matches are quite humorous. Check it out at [www.myheritage.com](http://www.myheritage.com/). It’s mostly for fun, but it gets students thinking about look-a-likes. While it’s fun to see who we look like, there’s a point where we should NOT look like the world.  
  
  
**Read Colossians 3:1-17**

**Discussion Questions**  
1. What are some of the worldly things of which we should rid ourselves? *(Sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires, greed, anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language. Be sure the students understand the things they list, taking time to explain the ones they do not)*2. According to this text, what are some things we are supposed to embrace in their place? *(Compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, love, and forgiveness)*3. What does Paul say is the reason we should do this? *(Christians are to set their hearts and minds on things above)*4. So with all that said, if I asked you straight up what our connection to the world should be, what would you say? Why? *(Allow for discussion)*  
We’re going to step outside of Colossians and look at a couple of other passages of Scripture. We want to have a consistent biblical framework to shape our opinions on this idea of relating to the world.

**Read Matthew 5:13-16  
  
Discussion Questions**  
1. What does that passage say about how we relate to the world? What images does it use to convey that point? *(Christians are to be salt and light to those around them. A city on a hill and a lamp under a bowl)*2. How well do you think modern-day Christians are at being a light for other people to see Jesus? How about you? *(Allow for discussion)*  
3. Why do you think that our differences end up being more of a pat-ourselves-on-the-back thing so often? *(Allow for discussion)*

Optional Activity (10 minutes)

**Stale to the World (Object Talk)**

Stale to the World

No one lights a lamp and puts it in a place where it will be hidden, or under a bowl. Instead he puts it on its stand, so that those who come in may see the light. Luke 11:33 NIV

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| Topics:  Boldness, Evangelism, Fruitfulness, Influence, Responsibility, Witnessing  Materials:  Stale bread or crackers Fresh bread or crackers  Duration:  Approximately 10 minutes | Light Under Basket |

Preparation:

Leave a pack of crackers or a loaf of bread out and open for a week or so before this lesson. Also bring a fresh pack of crackers or loaf of bread to class with you.

What you will do during class:

Ask students to take one from each, and then ask them about the difference. The idea of becoming stale to the world is applicable here, we become stale by leaving ourselves exposed to it. Only when we’ve wrapped ourselves in Jesus are we fresh and able to make a difference to those around us.

It seems like Paul is saying that we need to separate from the world. But I want you to hear me clearly, we aren’t different than everyone else so that we can beat the world over the head, or so that we can feel like we’re better than other people. The Bible is clear that our difference, our set-apartness, our holiness (that’s what set apart means), is for the glory of God and to draw people to Him. That’s what it means to be salt and light. We’re not supposed to be a bright flashlight shining right in someone’s eyes, we’re supposed to be a beacon, lighting the way so that those who are lost can find Jesus.

Discussion Questions:

1. How good do you think modern-day Christians are at being a light in a dark world, helping those who are lost find Jesus? How about you?  
2. Why do you think that our differences end up being more of a pat-ourselves-on-the-back thing so often?

**Read John 15:18-19**

**Discussion Questions**1. What do those verses say about our relationship to the world? *(Christians will be hated by the world)* How do they compare to what we’ve already studied? *(Allow for discussion)*2. Does the world hate you? Have you ever been persecuted for your faith or “hated” on account of Jesus? *(Allow for discussion)*  
3. What does that say about your faith? *(Allow for discussion)*  
  
(We’ve kind of snuck up on an important point here, that is the personalization of this stuff, to get students to think about how different they really are. You might ask them at this point how different they feel they are, and some of the things that are the same. If you have a group that can be very open, this could turn into some really good discussion)

Let’s return to Colossians 3. There’s one more verse I want to look at more deeply before we finish up. Check out verse 5 again. We’re going to have a memory verse this week. I want everyone to come back next week ready to recite this thing. Someone read it for us.

Now let’s say it a couple of times together. Write it in your workbooks if you have to, but learn it!

MAKING IT REAL (10 minutes)

**Discussion Questions**  
1. What is it going to mean for you to set your your mind on heavenly things?   
2. What bad habits do you need to break? What new habits do you need to establish?

(Have them think about that thought, about what it will mean to “set their minds” on heavenly things instead of worldly. What sins do they need to confess, what habits do they need to break, what new habits need to be established, etc.)  
  
I want everyone to decide on one thing and write it down on your workbook (there’s a spot labeled “confessions.” If it’s really personal and you don’t want anyone to know what it is, just write “personal struggle,” but I encourage you to open up and share with us. This is a safe group to be honest with.

Okay, now let’s pass our handouts to our right. What I want you to do is pray for the person on your left and the struggle they’ve listed. We’re going to do this silently for a minute or two, and then I’ll close out loud. Let’s pray.

CLOSING PRAYER (2 minutes)