

MAIN POINT

Only when we lose ourselves in Jesus Christ do we truly find ourselves.

INTRODUCTION

Which elements of New Age philosophies are most visible in the culture around you?

What are some ways Christians might easily talk themselves into believing in New Age elements?

There is no virtue as highly touted in our culture right now as the virtue of tolerance. We, like never before, prize tolerance and acceptance of lifestyle, belief, or lack thereof. This stems from a rejection of absolute truth in favor of believing, as many New Age philosophies do, that all truth is relevant to a person at a given moment in time. If you dig a little deeper, though, you find that the thing sitting square at the center of this kind of philosophy is the self. Indeed, truth only becomes true when an individual wants it to be true. But the Bible teaches all of us that we are not the center of the universe—Jesus is. Until we lose ourselves in Him, we will never truly find ourselves.

DISCUSSION

> READ COLOSSIANS 1:15-23.

Looking at Colossians 1:15-20, what phrases clarify Jesus's true identity?

How do these verses speak to Jesus's centrality in and supremacy over creation?

In what ways is Jesus the image of the invisible God?

How do these verses contradict the modern emphasis on personal fulfillment?

In what sense is Jesus the Head of the church?

What does the church look like when Jesus is the Head? What does it look like when He is not?

Why might even the church be vulnerable to modern day philosophies? What are some ways we can make sure that we see Jesus as the Head of the church instead of individuals like ourselves?

Why was it important for Paul to remind the Colossian believers of their past? How does reflecting on who you were before Christ impact your relationship with Him today?

What does it look like for you to remain grounded and steadfast in your faith?

What are some practical ways you can live in such a way that displays the centrality of Jesus in all things?

APPLICATION

In what area of your life are you trying to hold onto your own self-fulfillment instead of finding yourself in Jesus? What needs to change based on today's study?