



Wisdom and maturity enable us to discern between our preferences and convictions.

Colossians 1:3-5a

*We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, <sup>4</sup> since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, <sup>5</sup> because of the hope laid up for you in heaven.*

Context: Paul the Apostle is addressing heavy issues within the Colossian church.

- Jesus Christ is preeminent above all things (Col. 1:15-20).
- Remember what you were like (or could have been) without Jesus Christ (1:21-23).
- Not everything that sounds “Christian-y” is Christian (Col. 2:4-5, 8).
- Ignore hyper-critical people who will cause you to miss Jesus by making big things out of small things (Col. 2:16-23).

*How to live out your convictions or how to put your preferences in their place*

- Practice praying for others – Colossians 1:3 *We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you,*
  - “When,” not “if.”
  - Praying for others is an exercise of humility. It’s a reminder that you’re not the only gift that God has ever given.

- It's tough to keep hating the people you're praying for.
- Express gratitude for others rather than nitpick them – Colossians 1:4 *since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints,*
  - Pressure doesn't excuse us from showing gratitude.
  - Share what you know to be good about others.
  - Look for ways to praise others publicly and privately.

“Unconditional love is not always easy. If someone is perfect and meets our every perceived need, it's easy to think we love that person. But such love is one-way. It's all about me and my needs. Unconditional love means I will continue to fall more deeply in love regardless of the response.”<sup>1</sup> – Thom Rainer

- Root everything back to reality: There is hope in Jesus Christ – Colossians 1:5 *because of the hope laid up for you in heaven.*
  - We all need reminding sometimes.

“If you sell out to success, you will always fear failure.” – Josh Chatraw<sup>2</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> Thom Rainer, *I Am A Church Member: Discovering the Attitude that Makes the Difference* (Nashville: B&H publishing, 2013), location 630.

<sup>2</sup> Joshua D. Chatraw, *Telling a Better Story: How to Talk About God in a Skeptical Age* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2020), 89.