Conflict and division plague the church, alienate young people, and tarnish the image of Christ in our culture. What if conflict could be transformed into an opportunity, not for division and strife, but for discipleship and witness? Would you be interested? We are. That’s why we’ve invested years developing and refining The Colossian Way, an intergenerational practice of discipleship designed for an age of conflict. The Colossian Way gathers a small group of believers over ten sessions to engage a challenging cultural issue in ways that deepen love of God and neighbor while pursuing the truth of the Gospel together.

Today, our default approach to complex problems is to choose sides, go to battle, or draw away. In contrast, The Colossian Way offers a prayerful series of encounters in which we listen deeply to God and one another. By gathering Christians who disagree, confessing that all things hold together in Christ (Colossians 1:17), bringing our difficulties before God in prayer, listening to varied experts on the topics, attending to Scripture and the resources of the faith, and learning to listen and talk across differences, we can trust the Holy Spirit to transform us into the image of Christ.

**HOW IT WORKS:**

- We root the experience within the support and encouragement of a local church or faith community.
- We confess that all things hold together in Christ.
- We bring our difficulties before God in prayer.
- We listen to varied experts on the topics.
- We attend to Scripture and the resources of the faith.
- We learn to listen and talk across differences.
- We witness the body of Christ coming to life.

This is...
Materials and Resources

Since the design of The Colossian Way is unique, we’re highly invested in the small group materials we provide and the training we require for group leaders. The curriculum and training we offer are both theologically rooted and practical, thereby supporting the implementation of a Colossian Way group in your faith community. More importantly, they provide an opportunity for everyday Christians to encounter the hope, beauty, and reconciling power of the Gospel in this divided age.

Colossian Way groups meet for ten, 90-minute sessions so that, over time, they practice a new way of engaging conflict that aims to grow Christian character. Right now, we offer The Colossian Way experience on three issues: origins, sexuality, and political talk (available Fall 2019). We are currently developing resources on gender roles, to be released in 2020.

Training and Support

Training is central to implementing a Colossian Way group. We set aside two days for leader training and ask that two leaders from each group attend. Coaching is available throughout the ten session experience to guide leaders through the process of developing and leading their groups. Leaders also become part of a community of leaders who share their experiences, rely on each other for help, and celebrate what God is doing in their groups.

For more information, contact:

CHRIS DE VOS, MANAGER OF CHURCH PARTNERSHIPS AND CARE
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Training Dates & Locations:

For upcoming leader training dates and locations, please visit our website at www.colossianforum.org/TCW. If you don’t see an event near you, please contact us to explore the possibility of hosting a training in your area.

Training Schedule:

We typically begin at 6 PM on Thursday and end at 12:30 PM on Saturday. The schedule can be varied for an on-site leader training at your church or organization.

Registration:

Registration includes the training, meals and refreshments, Leader and Participant Guides, Leader Manual, and website resource access. For more information, please contact Chris De Vos at cdevos@colossianforum.org.