

CHANGED FOR GOOD: WEEK 1 – Colossians 3:12-17

This week we began the series Changed for Good. This series will focus on a number of different items that believers often struggle with. Take a moment to look back at the passage we studied this past weekend, Colossians 3:1-11.

1. This passage addresses a number of issues. What does Paul first command in v.1-2? Why do you think that he begins with that command before addressing a number of specific items in v.5-9? Which of those items listed are most difficult for you in your life? Why? How do you plan to engage those issues?

2. Think back to the sermon this past weekend. Was there anything in the message that was particularly helpful or challenging to you? How has God been using that in your life? Take a moment and share that with your group.

Take a moment to review the “nail” for this past week. The “nail” is the main point that we want to drive deep into our hearts and allow the Spirit of God to change us, and use to help us look more like Jesus.

NAIL: Plant Your Flag then Set Your Course

When we fly a flag, display our "colors", or pick a side, we declare to our observers where our loyalties lie. In Colossians 3:1-11, Paul addresses with great clarity, that those raised with Christ (take part in the salvation brought about by His resurrection) should plant their flag displaying their allegiance to Christ. Of course, the natural, yet uncommon result, should be one "Set Apart for Christ" and thus setting their course to follow Jesus. This week we seek to understand what a life "Set Apart" looks like.

Looking ahead to this coming weekend, take some time to dive into Colossians 3:12-17.

3. Read Colossians 3:12-17. What is the greater purpose that Paul is calling the Colossians to? Is there a greater purpose that God is calling you to? If not, what do you think is preventing you from hearing His calling? If so, what greater purpose is God calling you to?

4. In v.5 and 9 we are told to put off a number of items. Here in v. 12-14 we are told to put on 6 different items. What are the items that we are told to put on? Why do you think Paul wrote what he did in v.13? What larger item is he getting at there in regards to the new self?

5. Read v.15. Would you say that this verse is true of your life? Why or why not? Why can it be so difficult to let the peace of Christ rule our hearts? What are items in your life that rob you from letting the peace of Christ rule your heart? How can you better engage those items and allow the peace of Christ to rule your heart?

6. Read v.16. What do you think Paul means by letting “the word of Christ dwell in you richly?” How is this accomplished today? Why is this so critical in our lives? Notice the items that Paul lists right after this statement. Why is the context of word dwelling in us so important in regards to these specific items?

7. Read v.17. What are the two items that Paul drives at in this verse? How can you apply this to your life today? How should this verse encourage you in regards to all the tasks in your life, even the simple ones?
