

Home Group Leader's Notes
Week of October 7, 2018

NOTES TO LEADERS: This passage focuses on how our behavior should match our new position of being “in Christ.” It is always a temptation to drift into behavior to earn position with God – obviously not what Paul is proposing. Rather, it is a ‘by faith’ change that takes place as we dwell on (think on) the fact that we have been “raised with Christ” and have been given the power and position to overcome the old ways. We have a “new self” and a new family.

LEARN FROM THE BIBLE

This letter first focused on who Jesus is and what it means to receive Christ. Now it focuses on how those rescued can live like Jesus. Read Colossians 3:1-11

How does Paul begin this passage on how to live like Jesus? Why start there? What promises are implied? (3:1-4)

NOTES TO LEADERS: Paul begins with heart and head – what we desire and what we think about. Our vision or dreams propel us in a direction. Our thoughts lead to our actions (behavior). These verses imply promises: heaven and the return of Christ.

What behavior belongs to our “earthly nature” or “old self?” How are these interconnected?

NOTES TO LEADERS: The list has two themes: Evil passions and unloving actions.

What kinds of changes come with being the “new self?” What is the goal or standard?

NOTES TO LEADERS: The focus is on how we behave toward one another. The standard is “the new self” and “the image of its Creator” and “as God's chosen people” and “as the Lord” and “members of one body.”

According to this passage, what is involved in the process of this lifestyle change?

NOTES TO LEADERS: Putting on and putting off. The process involves believing that we are now “in Christ” and belong to and with Him forever. As we understand that we will soon be with Him, we can by faith trust in the Holy Spirit as we yield ourselves to His good work.

DISCUSS TOGETHER

What might it mean to keep setting our hearts and minds on things above? How does it affect our daily lives? Our dreams? (3:1-4)

NOTES TO LEADERS: Our dreams, desires, and thought life determine what we do and how we do it.

How would people recognize that “Christ is our life?” (3:4-11)

NOTES TO LEADERS: People see our actions. So when we act like Christ, they see Him in us.

The “old self - new self” position change is to be followed by an “old self - new self” lifestyle. How does this to happen? What is God's part and what is our part?

NOTES TO LEADERS: God places us in Christ, sends the Holy Spirit, gives us the Words and promises of Christ, places us in the family of Christ, and gives us the peace of Christ.

**May our Lord keep you encouraged as you encourage others?
Steve**