

New Life: New Lifestyle

Core help

Goals: The impact of being in relationship to Christ is a new life, new attitudes, new values, new behaviors. The claim to know and live in Christ will be proven out in a lifestyle that reflects Christ. (To learn and celebrate what God does in our lives.)

Openers

- Have you known people who have made a major change in their lifestyle. Any idea why they made this change?
- What are some of attitudes that you have seen changed after you or someone you know became a Christian? Why might they have changed?

Scripture:

- **2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV)**
Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!
- **Colossians 3:5-10 (NIV)**
“Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.
- **Colossians 3:12 (NIV)** - Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Digging Deeper:

Observations

- What are the things Colossians 3:12 says to ‘clothe yourselves’ with? (make a list)
- What are the things Colossians 3:5-10 says to ‘put to death’? (make a list) What kind of nature are they associated with?
- What does the Colossians passage and 2 Corinthians 5:17 say about the ‘self’? How is it changed?

Interpretations

- What might it mean in 2 Corinthians 5:17 to be a new creation?
- What might it mean to have the old life gone?
- What might it mean to be given a new life?
- Why is it important to see ourselves as 'God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved'? How might that influence our actions and behaviors?
- Why do you think forgiveness and love are so important in this process?

Applications

- Share some things that you have seen God building in your life or in the life of someone you know.

Pair up into groups of 2 – 3

- Share with each other a couple of attitudes, values or behaviors that you would like to have God's help to build into your life?
- Pray together