



LEADERS GUIDE: 1/22/17 | THIS CHANGES LIVES PART 3

1. Read Colossians 3:8-10. Over the past two weeks we have seen commands to both “put on” Christ, and “put off” sin. When you think of both putting on and putting off, what makes each of these difficult?

-Putting off sin is hard because you must stand boldly in the face of what culture tells you as “true.” You must believe that God’s way and God’s word is better than the promises of sin. Putting on Christ is also hard because it takes a conscious effort. We don’t naturally trend towards holiness or Christlikeness. While both of these things are natural to us redemptively, they are opposite of us biologically! Our natural minds and hearts are prone to sin, so to put on Christ is to wage war against the remaining desires for sin in our own heart. It is important to stress that both of these are only sustainable when we are committed to doing one with the other. Putting on without putting off provides license for sin. Putting off without putting on is a legalistic man-powered effort.

2. Read Colossians 3:4,17. How did the sermon and text redeem and reorder the expectations and goals in your life?

-The goal of the Christian life should be tied up somehow in the Christ who gives us life. Why is this such a hard thing for us to keep central? What would it look like if “Jesus as our life” was the main thought we had in all our decisions? When we are focused rightly on Jesus we are of greater good here on earth because whatever we do, in word or in deed, we are able to do it all in the name of Jesus giving thanks to God through him.

3. How has this sermon series helped grow your understanding of sanctification and holiness?

-This series was designed to show the need of sanctification and the means of sanctification for our body. How did your group find this as helpful or insightful? What do you hope will be different in your life because of your view of sanctification? If you had to explain sanctification and holiness to someone, what would you say? And how does it fit within our salvation? Sanctification is the process of changing to be more like Christ, and therefore it is something which can only happen when we are saved by Christ! Holiness doesn’t mean that we will be perfect, but it does mean we have a desire to trend away from sin and towards Christ. It views all of life as a marathon and makes small gains for glory in life’s daily battles.