

“You Can’t Change.”
Series: *“Five Lies from the Devil”*
(Part 5 of 5)

Discussion Starter: When it comes to change, I a) like to mix things up, or b) like to keep things just the way they are.

Explore: Read Philippians 3:1-14.

Perhaps no one in the New Testament exemplifies a changed life better than Paul, the apostle. Responsible for most of the New Testament and launching the church globally, Paul didn’t start off as well as you might expect...

1. What did Paul call all believers to do (see vs.1-3)?
2. In what sense was Paul not boasting, even though he was calling attention to his accomplishments (vs. 4-6)? Did anything on the list surprise you?
3. What comparison did Paul make between his old life and new life (vs. 7-11)?
4. How would you describe Paul’s attitude toward his own faith journey (vs. 12-14)?

Reflect: Review the LG and discuss the questions below.

1. What is one thing your friends or family would change about you if they could (no assisting please, from group or family members)?
2. Describe misconceptions people might have about change. Why is it important to see change as a partnership with God?
3. Getting focused may be the first step in seeing real change in your life. What promises of God’s have helped to shape who you are today? Is there a promise you are having a hard time accepting?
4. Why are old habits and hangouts so difficult to lose? What is one thing, with God’s help, that you have been able to “take off” and “put to death” since becoming a follower of Christ?
5. Look at Colossians 3:12-14. When it comes to “putting on” Christ’s character, which quality do you believe needs to develop and grow in your life?

Live:

As a group: Sub-group into smaller groups (guys and gals). What is one thing you need to get rid of or put off – something that’s keeping you from God’s best? Give everyone a chance to confess and pray for one another.

On your own: This week get serious about change in your life. Choose one thing you need to “put off” or “put on.” Ask God for help and then share your decision with a friend.

Listening Guide Notes

“Carefully guard your thoughts because they are the source of true life.”
–**Proverbs 4:23 (CEV)**

Are you ready for a change?

1. Change is possible.

“This same Good News that came to you is going out all over the world. It is bearing fruit everywhere by changing lives, just as it changed your lives from the day you first heard and understood the truth about God’s wonderful grace.”
–**Colossians 1:6 (NLT)**

2. Change begins with a person.

“God decided to let his people know this rich and glorious secret which he has for all people. This secret is Christ himself, who is in you. He is our only hope for glory.” –**Colossians 1:27 (NCV)**

3. Change is a partnership.

“That’s why I work and struggle so hard, depending on Christ’s mighty power that works within me.” –**Colossians 1:29 (NLT)**

Making the Change:

1. Focus on God’s promise.

^[1] *“Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. ^[2] Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. ^[3] For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.”* –**Colossians 3:1-3 (NIV)**

“And because of his glory and excellence, he has given us great and precious promises. These are the promises that enable you to share his divine nature and escape the world’s corruption caused by human desires.” –**2 Peter 1:4 (NLT)**

2. Destroy the old nature.

^[5] “Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. ^[6] Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. ^[7] You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. ^[8] But now you must rid yourselves of all things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. ^[9] Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self.” –**Colossians 3:5-9 (NIV)**

“He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.” –**Proverbs 28:13 (NIV)**

3. Put on Christ.

^[12] “Therefore as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ^[13] Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. ... ^[14] And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.” –**Colossians 3:12-14 (NIV)**

“And all who have been united with Christ in baptism have put on Christ, like putting on new clothes.” –**Galatians 3:27 (NLT)**

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.” –**Colossians 3:16 (NIV)**