

Connect Group notes 7.4.25

Chris continued our series on Colossians on Sunday.

See Colossians 3:1-17

These scriptures remind us as believers who we are in Christ, and that Jesus is forming in us a new life with himself at the centre.

Jesus needs to be Lord of our behaviours as well as our beliefs. It is not just a matter of improving our morality, but reminding us of our identity in Christ, ultimately shaping the way we live.

CS Lewis wrote “***When we come to Christ, He doesn’t just teach us manners, he transforms our nature***”

Chris spoke to us about the fact that we can look at this passage of scripture in four movements;

- A New Mindset – Set Your Heart and Mind on Christ (v1–4)
- A New Way to Live – Put Off the Old Self (v5–11)
- A New Character – Put On the New Self (v12–14)
- A New Rhythm – Let Christ Shape Every Part (v15–17)

Discussion points

1. A New Mindset

- Why does what we give our attention to ultimately mould us?
- How do we receive a ‘new mindset’ from Jesus (allowing him to renew our minds?) What might this look like on a practical day to day level? (what we watch, listen to, or believe)
- How is worldly thinking different from Christlike thinking?
- How does allowing God to change our mindset alter our perception of our identity in Christ?

2. A new way to live

Chris referenced those things that Paul tells the church of Colossae to put to death v 5-9; sexual immorality, impurity, lust and evil desires, anger, rage and dirty language.

- Why is it important for us to make a decisive removal of our old selves “putting them to death”, rather than just ‘tweaking’ them?
- What do we think sexual sin causes such confusion and deception?
- Discuss the world’s view, versus a Christ centered view, of whether Paul’s teaching around sexual behaviour is to restrict or protect us?
- How do we define greed? Have we watered it down in any way in our lives?
- How does greed impact our gratitude? (considering Paul tells us many times to be thankful!)
- How does filthy language and lying not only impact us spiritually, but also the wider church, Christ’s body?

3. A new character

V 12-14 – we need to be clothed with mercy, kindness, humility gentleness and patience.

- Can we actively step into a new character without ‘feeling’ like it? How could we do this?
- Love is what makes all this work – share as comfortable examples of where the truth was or wasn’t spoken in love and the impact of this on us or others .
- Discuss the significance of why it’s important to handle a situation well showing the above attributes, rather than being ‘right’ or having all the facts?

4. A new rhythm

Allowing Christ’s peace to rule

- As we allow Jesus to give us his peace - which often surpasses our emotions - how does this affect our ability to show kindness and self-control? (instead of what Pauls tells us to kill in our lives in v 5-9)

Chris commented that “character is not formed in a day, but over a lifetime of daily decisions to put off the old and put on the new”.

- How does this encourage us to do everything in the name of Jesus, from the smallest most menial, to the big tasks of our lives?

Pray and Apply

- Spend time this week asking God to show you where he wants to transform you more into his likeness, whether it's in your mindset, character, behaviours or rhythm.
- Ask him to show you how you can do this, and be courageous in responding in obedience to what he says. Perhaps share with someone who can pray for and encourage you in this.