

The Real Thing

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STUDY GUIDE | WEEK FOUR | REAL CHANGE

INTRODUCTION

"People never change." This is a common belief in a cynical age. After all, there is usually a mountain of anecdotal evidence to back up the complaint. Yet, the Gospel promises change. Changed hearts. Changed lives. But many of us are stuck and even feel trapped by sinful patterns and choices. How does REAL change happen? This is what we want to explore in this week's lesson.

SCRIPTURE

Colossians 3:1-17

What repeated phrases do you see in the text? What is being asked of us?

List the "earthly" things we are asked to put off? What are the "heavenly" things we are asked to put on?

DISCUSSION

How have you experienced change in your life or that of a loved one? What seems to make change so difficult?



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DISCUSSION CONTINUED...

Read Philippians 3:3-14. (Consider dividing the reading up as a group and reading it aloud together.)

How does this passage relate to Colossians 3?

Paul uses a different metaphor in Philippians 3:13-14 to describe change. How does it help you understand what real change requires?

Read Colossians 3:16-17. What role does Gospel-formed community play in our change? Give examples of how this has been evident in your life.

APPLICATION

Where is God pressing into your life to bring about change?

What do you need to *put off* this week?

What do you need to *put on* this week?

Close with discussing practical ways the group can encourage and admonish one another towards real change.
