

CHANGED

Life Groups
September 2, 2018

Introduction: Many of us struggle with the big questions of life, “Who am I? Why am I here? What is my purpose?” We spend our lives seeking answers. And in the end, there are very few who find complete satisfaction in the answers they’ve discovered. There are answers! God-inspired answers. Answers that change us!

Scripture Reading: Genesis 1:26-28

I. God People

*I said, “You are gods, sons of the Most High, **all of you**” (Psalm 82:6).*

A. Everyone bears the image of God – everyone!
*...God **made man** in his own image (Genesis 9:6).*

B. The Garden of Eden was not destroyed.
*“To the one who conquers I will grant to **eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God**” (Revelation 2:7).*

II. Starting Point

A. We are sacred people because we have been born.
*See, this alone I found, that **God made man upright**, but they have sought out many schemes (Ecclesiastes 7:29).*

B. Deep within us there is a passion for what is just and right.
*¹⁴ Again, though I say to the wicked, ‘You shall surely die,’ yet **if he turns from his sin and does what is just and right**, ¹⁵ ...and **walks in the statutes of life**, not doing injustice, he shall surely live; he shall not die (Ezekiel 33:14–15).*

NOTE: Love is at the heart of who we are – a desire to be loved and to be loved by another.

III. Change

Definition: The distance between the me I am and the me God created me to be.

A. Change is not about becoming someone we are not. It is about becoming who God created us to be.
*²² to **put off your old self**, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, ²³ and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, ²⁴ and to put*

on the new self, **created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.** (Ephesians 4:22–24).

- B. Our struggle, we forget the truth about who we are and become slaves of falsehood.
...the desires of the flesh **are against** the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit **are against** the flesh, for **these are opposed to each other**, to keep you from doing the things you want to do (Galatians 5:16–17).

IV. Christ Came to Wake Us

- A. Jesus came to remind us of who we truly are.
Jesus said, “For judgment I came into this world, that those **who do not see may see...**” (John 9:39).
- B. Jesus came to release us of the false images that are destroying ourselves and others – especially those we care about deeply.
*The thief comes only to **steal and kill and destroy**. I came that they **may have life** and have it **abundantly*** (John 10:10).
 - 1. Christ is the memory of our soul’s forgetfulness.
 - 2. In Christ we see the true face of God.
 - 3. Christ therefore shows us our true nature – the depth of our human souls.
- C. Grace is a seed of resurrection.
⁸ For **by grace you have been saved** through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the **gift of God**, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast (Ephesians 2:8–9).
- D. Grace goes deeper than sin’s infection.
If we **confess our sins**, he is **faithful** and **just** to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9).

⁴ in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵ For those **who live according to the flesh** set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those **who live according to the Spirit** set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶ For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace (Romans 8:4–6).

CHANGED

Life Groups
September 2, 2018

Introduction: Many of us struggle with the big questions of life, “Who am I? Why am I here? What is my purpose?” We spend our lives seeking answers. And in the end, there are very few who find complete satisfaction in the answers they’ve discovered. There are answers! God-inspired answers. Answers that change us!

Scripture Reading: Genesis 1:26-28

I. God People (*Psalms 82:6*)

- A. Everyone bears the image of God – _____! (*Genesis 9:6*)
- B. The Garden of Eden was not _____. (*Revelation 2:7*)

II. Starting Point

- A. We are _____ people because we have been _____. (*Ecclesiastes 7:29*)
- B. Deep within us there is a passion for what is _____ and _____. (*Ezekiel 33:14–15*)

III. Change

- A. Change is not about becoming someone _____. It is about becoming who God created _____. (*Ephesians 4:22–24*)
- B. Our struggle, we forget the truth about who we are and become _____ of _____. (*Galatians 5:16–17*)

IV. Christ Came to Wake Us

- A. Jesus came to remind us of _____. (*John 9:39*)
- B. Jesus came to release us of the false images that are destroying _____ and _____ – especially those we care about deeply. (*John 10:10*)
- C. Grace is a seed of _____. (*Ephesians 2:8–9*)
- D. Grace goes deeper than sin’s _____. (*1 John 1:9*) (*Romans 8:4–6*)