

3. What are some ways religion can hinder this kind of life? How can religion even be destructive?

Read Colossians 3:1-17

4. What do you think Paul means when he says, “Set your hearts on things above?” What are some practical ways you can do this?
5. Colossians 2:16-23 is a precursor to the passage you read. In it, Paul talks about outward rules. What does he say about them?
6. Why do you think Paul says these regulations, “lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence?”
7. Review what Kory said about sinful patterns in our lives. Where do these patterns come from?
8. If outward rules and regulations don’t restrain them, what does?
9. In Colossians 3, what does Paul indicate are markers of spiritual life?
10. Is this different than what we typically think of as “spiritual maturity?” Right or wrong, what are some other characteristics we associate with spiritual maturity?
11. In what ways can a church create an environment where people consistently grow and find life? What are the characteristics of the environment Kory said Waite Park will build (or continue)?
12. Are there others environmental characteristics you think are necessary for people to “find life?”
13. What part might you play in helping foster this environment?



“Find Life”

Sermon Notes and Takehome

June 26th, 2011

The vision of Waite Park Church is the vision of the Kingdom. We believe at the heart of the Kingdom of God is Life—capital “L.” So many people think that when someone finds “religion,” they limit themselves and make their world smaller. But we believe Jesus when He says, “I came so they can have real and eternal life, more and better life than they ever dreamed of.” (John 10:10 MSG) Our vision is that we are a church full of people who find Life, share Life, and give Life.

Find Life.

“For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it.” —Mark 8:35

- We see a church where people, who are lost in both sin and dead religion, can find life in Jesus.
- We see a church where all ages connect with Jesus through personal spiritual disciplines that allow Him to transform their habits and character.
- We see Bible-centered teaching where people grow in their knowledge of God, themselves, and the world.
- We see creative and inspirational worship services where faith is kindled into action.

Sermon Notes:

Scripture: Colossians 3:1-17

Where Jesus agrees with Carl Marx: When _____ gets off-track, it can be a _____ force.

John 9 & 10 – The story of the blind man:

Jesus healed the man on the _____.

- For the Pharisees, the man is only _____.

Jesus calls the Pharisees _____.

- They're not interested in the good of the _____.

Jesus said, "I have come that they may have _____..." (John 10:10)

Our vision is that Waite Park would be a church where people _____ life, _____ life, and _____ life!

How we find life:

We pursue _____. (Col 3:1-4)

- Jesus makes us _____!

We _____ to ourselves. (Col 3:5-8)

- The paradox of following Jesus: we have to _____ to find _____.
- We don't like the _____ of dying.

We put on new _____. (Col 3:12-14)

- Life comes from the _____, but shows itself on the _____.

How we will create an environment where people can find life:

1. We will create an environment that defines Christian maturity by humility, patience, compassion—in other words, _____.
2. We will create an environment of truth and _____.
3. We will create an environment where _____ are welcomed and _____ are expected to grow.
4. We will create an environment where we _____ our losses and _____ our gains.
5. We will create an environment that's centered on _____.

Questions for Reflection and Application:

1. When Jesus says, "I have come that they may have life..." what images come to mind? How do you picture the "life" Jesus is talking about? What are the barriers to this type of life?
2. How can religion be a source of life for people?