

Bible References

1 Corinthians 9:19-23 (NIV)

Though I am free and belong to no man, I make myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. To the Jews I became like a Jew to win the Jews! To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law. To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. *I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some.* I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.

Romans 12:2 (CEV)

Don't be like the people of this world, but *let God change the way you think*. Then you will know how to do everything that is good and pleasing to him. I realize how kind God has been to me, and so I tell each of you not to think you are better than you really are. Use good sense and measure yourself by the amount of faith that God has given you.

Romans 15:20-23a (ESV)

....and thus I make it my ambition to preach the gospel, *not where Christ has already been named, lest I build on someone else's foundation*, but as it is written, "Those who have never been told of him will see, and those who have never heard will understand." This is the reason why I have so often been hindered from coming to you. *But now, since I no longer have any room for work in these regions.....*



Leader Version: **CHANGE**

Discussion Guide

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Pr'me
Groups

GO "Change"

Week of 10/7/2012

The Point: Change Consistently. Even when you don't want to.....

I Corinthians 9:19-23 (v. 22b)

Discussion Generators

- What are two things that stood out to you from this week's Point? (they can be silly, serious, stupid, or spiritual)
- Do you remember Scorpion singing "Wind of Change" in 1990 at the end of the Cold War with the Berlin wall coming down? What kind of memories does that bring back to you? Do you believe those changes that happened to end the Cold War were driven by people that went with the status quo?
- Romans 12:2 talks about letting God change the way we think. For God to change the way we think as a group of people (the church), how would you say that even starts? By what different means could that be impacted?
- What do you think Paul meant in I Corinthians 9:22 when he said "I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some"? Do you think that Paul and Peter took the same exact approach to their church work? How do you imagine those two might have varied in their approach?
- Would you consider yourself as driven by competition or by uncharted waters? If you are unsure think about the kind of activities that you are involved in. Do you think that MC₃ should be in competition with other churches in the area or do you think that we should be spending our time and energy in uncharted waters? Why?
- If there is a need for five windows to be washed at church and there are five people each washing a window would you be inclined to start washing one of those five windows? In Romans 15:20-23, Paul says that he does not need to build on someone else's foundation. How could that thinking impact the way we approach the way we spend our time and energy as a church?

Discussion Generators

- Describe the best vehicle that you once had (not currently). Despite how much you liked that vehicle why did you get rid of it? Why or why not do you think that same life cycle would apply to approaching church and ministry? Do you think that we need to go back on occasion and reevaluate the why behind the way we spend our time and energy as a church to make sure that we don't have any "old family couches"?
- Name a church you know in the area that has a good reputation and that you would recommend to someone (other than MC₃). What is that church known for? What percentage of the population of Mifflin County do you think would be likely to attend that church? Why would some attend and why would others not? (*Some ideas if you have little response: It could be the geographical location, the style of worship, the style of dress, the average age, social demographic, the lack of or the excess of traditions.....*) Do these reasons necessarily define whether or not that church is spending their time and energy in uncharted waters? Why or why not? Are there any churches that you have attended that you could say have "an old family couch"? (*Be sure that this remains kind and is only referenced for our own awareness in the future to identify our own old couches*)
- The major TV networks NBC, ABC, and CBS which have been around for a combined 240 years collectively attract 10 million unique visitors each month. Prior to 2003 MySpace, YouTube, and Facebook didn't even exist and they receive over 250 million unique visitors monthly! Obviously, our world has changed around us rapidly and this example is a strong case for change in the business world, but in your mind does this have anything to do with church?
- As we continue discussing together about putting action to faith, again the GO series, how does talking about changing the way we approach "doing church" apply to the other four specific topics? Just as a reminder, the 1st week he talked about Grace (caring for others), the 2nd week he talked about Follow (as a disciple of Christ), the 3rd week he talked about Share (our faith and beliefs), and the 4th week we talked about Give (Outrageous generosity). How do these all correspond with one another? Do they work hand in hand or are they not even related?

Thinking Outside the Box

Thinking inside of what you know to step outside to the realm of possibilities:

Go to <http://tinyurl.com/mc3Change> to watch the ten minute video "Taste of the Summit" with Craig Groeschel. In this video, Craig talks about how the church that he is pastor at did all of the typical programs and ministries until one day they decided to look at the "why" behind what they were doing. There are a couple discussion questions in the guide that would work as follow ups to the video or just go with what you feel is appropriate at that time for the group.