

All Things New: The After Picture

2 Corinthians 5:17

MAIN IDEA: Because of who God is, He has immediately and undeservedly transformed us in Christ at the moment of our belief

1. The Condition - If anyone is IN CHRIST; Ephesians 1:13
2. The Change
 - a. Reborn; Romans 6:11; 1 Peter 1:23
 - i. New Heart; Ezekiel 36:26-27
 - ii. New Spirit; 2 Timothy 1:7
 - iii. New Mind; Romans 8:6-7
 - b. Justified; Romans 4:25, 5:1
 - i. Forgiven; 1 John 2:12; 1:9; Romans 8:1
 - ii. Made Righteous; Romans 5:18-19
 - c. Adopted; John 1:12, 3:1
 - i. Access to the Father; Ephesians 2:18
 - ii. Heir to the Kingdom; 1 Peter 1:3-4
 - iii. Part of a Family
3. The Call; 2 Corinthians 5:20; Galatians 5:16-25

The If/Then statement of 2 Corinthians 5:17 has no condition to be met other than your faith in Christ. What else is true of your new identity in Christ besides the ones listed above?

What does the seed of 1 Peter 1:23 represent?

Nicodemus asked Jesus what it means to be born again in John 3:1-21. What was Jesus' answer?

What does it mean to be forgiven by God? Are there any exceptions to His forgiveness?

What is the difference between BEING righteous and being MADE righteous?

What are the rights, privileges, and responsibilities we have as adopted children of God?

What is the inheritance awaiting us in heaven?

PERSONAL RESPONSE

Do you place conditions on your salvation other than faith in Christ? If so, what keeps you from trusting God entirely for your salvation? Your forgiveness? Your blamelessness before God?

How does your new heart beat for Jesus?

How has having the mind of Christ given you a new understanding of the world around you (time, relationships) and how do you live that out?

Has someone ever paid what you owe? What was your response? How can that event help you to understand how God canceled your debt on the cross and washed it completely clean?

How has being a part of God's family changed you?

How are you answering the call of ambassadorship on your life?

Compare and contrast your desires, thoughts, and actions from your old sinful self and your new identity in Christ. Pray:

- Thanksgiving to God for your transformation
- Confession for times and situations where you struggle to believe what God has done to set you free from guilt and shame and slavery to sin
- For the Holy Spirit to empower you to live out the truth of who God's word says you are

REPRODUCE

Is there a fellow brother or sister in Christ who is struggling to believe God's power and promise that they are a new creation? How can you come alongside him/her and encourage them?

If you are the one struggling to believe you are a new creation, who can you reach out to for encouragement? Make a plan to share your struggle with them.

How can we change the way we talk with one another when discussing our identities as Christians? i.e. speaking up when we hear negative self talk, asking questions when someone struggles to forgive themselves, speaking plainly about who really defines us.

KEY VERSES

From the sermon:

- 2 Corinthians 5:17-20
- Ephesians 1:13
- Romans 6:11
- 1 Peter 1:3-4, 23
- Ephesians 2:18
- Ezekiel 36:26-27
- 2 Timothy 1:7
- Romans 8:1, 6-7
- John 1:12
- Galatians 5:16-25
- Romans 4:25
- 1 John 2:12
- Romans 5:1, 18-19
- 1 John 1:9
- John 3:1-21