

**Introduction:**

- In the last three messages, we looked at New Creation realities:
  - First, we covered False Identities. The Father went to both sons in Luke 15 in order to re-establish their identities as to who they were and whose they were.
  - We looked at what not to wear. The process of change: People are given an opportunity to change. They are allowed to see what they really look like. In order to change they must give up their old wardrobe. They must be willing to trust others to help. They have to put on new garments.
  - We also looked at 'identity' meaning "sameness."
  - Last we broke down: new creation - akin or anakanou - new. creation - Hebrew meaning to be a part of creation yet distinct from it...Adam/man/humanity.
- Read *"Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."* (2 Corinthians 5:16-21, NKJV) So, I am in Christ and I am a new creation. Where does this verse now take us? What are the implications of being a new creation? New Birth, New Potential, New Picture.

**I. We have to See Differently** Regard No One By The Flesh vs 16

- A. Christ is the Head of a new creation. *"And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence."* (Colossians 1:18, NKJV) Regard no one by the flesh we must see the born again man...in others and in ourselves.
  1. Christ is the first born from the dead with a resurrected body.
  2. He is head over all who are born again. He is the Kind.
  3. As new creations in Christ we are citizens of heaven and subjects of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- B. We cannot view others by what we see on the outside because it is the inside that has changed.
  1. Paul is saying we did that initially with Christ and we missed it...missed Him.
  2. He rose from the dead never to die again. The first!
  3. Therefore whoever accepts the Son of God as Savior and Lord, he passes from death to life. (Jn 5:24) He becomes a new creation!!!! This new creation is just as real as the first creation in Adam.
- C. We can't view ourselves that way either.

1. This requires us to think differently.
2. Our minds must be renewed according to the Word.

## II. We Must Know We Are Reconciled to God. 2 Cor 5:18-19

- A. Reconcile - *katallasso* - to make other than it is. To take in exchange. ***katallássō*** (→ *di-*, *apokatallássō*, *katallagḗ*). With the thought of "change" predominating, this word can mean "to change," "to exchange," and "to reconcile" or "reconcile oneself." Kittel, G., Friedrich, G., & Bromiley, G. W. (1985). *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament* (p. 40). Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans.
1. "*katallássein* denotes a transformation of the state between God and us and therewith of our own state, for by it we become new creatures (2 Cor. 5:18), no longer ungodly or sinners, but justified, with God's love shed abroad in our hearts (Rom. 5:6ff.). God has not changed; the change is in our relation to him and consequently in our whole lives". Kittel, G., Friedrich, G., & Bromiley, G. W. (1985). *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament* (p. 41). Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans.
  2. Jesus was made sin and we were made righteous.
- B. In it guilt is removed. Yet reconciliation also means a change whereby the love of Christ comes to constrain us and we no longer live for ourselves (2 Cor. 5:14-15).
- C. Reconciliation is not a transaction with God. It is a metamorphosis done by God which results in being made alive and a conscience that is alive.

## III. We Must Know We Are Righteous 2 Cor 5:19

- A. We are, in Christ, the righteousness of God [2Corinthians 5:21].
1. The 'new creation' is just as free from Satans dominion as is Christ!
  2. The new man is absolutely delivered out of the authority of Satan.
    - a) "*He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love,*" (Colossians 1:13, NKJV) Delivered and conveyed.
    - b) "*Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil,*" (Hebrews 2:14, NKJV)
- B. It is not about our righteousness. Only His counts!

### Conclusion:

- Spend time meditating on the implications what it means to be a new creation.
- The new birth does give us new potential and that creates a totally new picture.

We have peace with God [Romans 5:1].

There is no more condemnation [Romans 8:1].

In Christ we have permanent, present access into the presence of God [Ephesians 2:18]