

New Creation Realities

Lesson 1 “You are a New Creation”

I. Introduction - **2 Corinthians 5:17** makes one of the most radical statements in the entire Bible. It says we are (present tense) a new creation. Old things have passed away and all things have become new. This seems too good to be true and for many of us (Christians) it doesn't seem to be true. We struggle with sin, addiction, bondage, sickness, etc. It seems not much has changed since we got saved except we are on our way to heaven.

A. This was my testimony as a teenager and young adult. I wanted to feel something and I wanted to see my behavior change. ex: story about wondering if I'd ever want to read by Bible again when I was 20.

B. Here's the punchline. Being a new creation isn't about feeling something. It's about knowing something. When we know something our feelings will eventually get in line.

C. In this series, we are going to look at what it means to be a new creation and how to practically live it out in terms of our behavior, healing, prosperity, and having the mind of Christ.

II. You are a New Creation

A. **2 Corinthians 5:15-17**

1. How many of you in here know Jesus? How do you know Jesus? Have you ever seen Him physically? Did you walk the shores of Galilee with Him? Were you there when He healed Jairus's daughter or multiplied the loaves and fishes? So how do you know Jesus? **You don't know Him after the flesh. This means know Him by the word and the spirit.**

2. This passage also says we aren't to know anyone after the flesh. That includes your neighbor, but that includes yourself. You aren't to know yourself after the flesh. But how many of us relate to ourselves based on what we look like, how to we are, the color of our hair, how many wrinkles, how we scored on the SAT, etc?

3. So how are we to know ourselves? The same way we know Jesus. We are to know ourselves by the word and the spirit.

4. **Verse 17** says we are a new creation. Old things have passed away. All things have become new. The word all literally means all. With that said, it creates a question? If none us in here physically changed when we got saved, what does this mean? Think about it, if you were fat before you got saved, you didn't just become skinny. You didn't go from having blue eyes to green, etc. What does this mean?

- a. **1 Corinthians 2:14** - the natural man can't receive the things of God, because they must be spiritually discerned - so he's not talking about our body.
- b. **Thessalonians 5:23** - we are a 3 part being. He are a spirit, we have a soul, we live in a body. The spirit was changed when we were saved. As we change how we think it will affect our emotions, body, and life. ex: Remodeled Sanctuary example - the key to see it is to open the doors.

B. **John 3:3-13 Illustration from Life of Jesus and Nicodemus**

1. Jesus said unless we are born again we can't see (get spiritual perception) of the kingdom of God. The word ***another literally means from above.***
2. Nicodemus immediately tries to understand this naturally.
3. Water and the spirit (breaking of water - natural birth), born of the spirit (spiritual birth).
4. **Verse 6** flesh is flesh and spirit is spirit. The two are different. Just because our flesh doesn't feel it, doesn't mean its not spiritually true. Spirit can affect flesh as we renew our minds. Ex: Sanctuary and hazer.
5. Jesus then gives a natural example to build a foundation for a greater spiritual truth (childbirth, wind).
6. In **verse 12**, He goes on to contrast heavenly (spiritual) with natural things. The principle is if you can't get the natural (wind), you don't have a foundation to learn the greater spiritual truth.
7. **Verse 13** Where is Jesus standing when He made this statement? Compare with **Ephesians 2:6-7**. Then read all of **Ephesians 2:1-7**.

III. Conclusion - Do we see the difference between spirit and flesh? A big part of tonight was about me being intentionally provocative to to encourage all of us to hunger to dig deeper for what's available.

A. Receive Offering - **2 Corinthians 8:9**

B. Pray Closing Prayer - **Ephesians 1**