

THEME: WHO I AM IN CHRIST

TOPIC: I'M NEW CREATION

TEXT: 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17; 1 PETER 1:23, EZEKIEL 36:25-27

INTRODUCTION

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

As we “put off” the old self, we’re to “put on” the newness of Christ and we’re to be renewed in the spirit of our minds. Because of our new citizenship, the desires and ideas of our past life without Christ should no longer control us. As new creations in Christ, we’re to put on and live as the person God created us to be, reflecting His character of righteousness and holiness.

New Heart

1. Recognizing your new heart in Christ – Romans 6:17, Ezekiel 36:26

As part of our new creation, it is imperative that we believe we have a new heart. If I am still believing that my heart is deceitfully wicked, there is no way I will ever trust that I am who God says I am.

Q: Why is it necessary for us to embrace the new heart we have in Christ?

2. Your ‘Believe’ Matters – 1 Thessalonians 2:13 CEV, John 5:24

Nothing you believe and depend upon is more magnificently freeing than this single truth: You are no longer who you were, even on your worst day.

- Trusting and leaning upon “Christ in you” is the source of every shred of strength, joy, healing, and peace.
- What we believe happened in that first moment of trusting Jesus affects everything.
- That start is called “justification,” which means to be made right.
- Think about what it means to believe you were made right.

Q: Why is “Your ‘believe” key in fostering the relationship in Christ as new creation?

3. Dealing with Shame – Romans 8:1

Much of our difficulty accepting this new life has to do with the shame we carry. It whispers and hisses that no matter what you do, you will always be defined by what you did or what was done to you. It mocks you. Shame wants you desperately performing for acceptance you don’t believe you deserve.

Q: What should my response be to the shame of my past life before I committed to Christ?

4. Taking up God's Opinion – John 8:32

For those who for years have lived in the agony of their shame—because of their choices or the choices made against them—there is probably no verse that offers them greater hope than to believe that, because they are new in Christ, **they are no longer identified by their shame**. They are, in fact, no longer condemned. If a person is unable to believe that, he or she will remain self-condemned and live out of that self-condemnation in an effort to be accepted or acceptable, or will stop trying and lose all hope. This is one of those places where our opinion of ourselves has to change to God's opinion of us.

Q: How can we practically live our lives as believers without condemnation?

Conclusion

The Christian God is interested in relationship with us, and not just relationship, but union, and not just union, but such a union that everything He is and has—all glory and fullness, all joy and beauty and unbridled life—is to be shared with us and to become as much ours as it is His.

The plan from the beginning, in the Christian vision, is that God would give Himself to us, and nothing less, so that we could be filled to overflowing with the divine life.