



FOLLOWorship

LESSON 3: NEW CREATION

In our last lesson we began to understand our need for a savior and how Jesus fulfilled all the requirements of God's covenant in order to save us from the sin issue we inherited from God's first children, Adam and Eve.

Putting our faith in Christ is a big step and gets us back in right relationship with God; however, there is so much more good news that God has for us following our salvation. You may hear Christians use words like transformation and sanctification. The Bible also uses terms such as "born again" and "new creation." That sounds almost impossible! Even the people who saw Jesus' miracles while he walked on Earth could not understand what he was talking about.

1. What does being "born again" mean to you?

John 3: 3-4

Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God." "What do you mean?" exclaimed Nicodemus. "How can an old man go back into his mother's womb and be born again?"

We are born with physical bodies and the Bible also teaches that we have souls, sometimes called our heart. But there is another part of us as humans that sets us apart from the animals and that is, we have a spirit.

Before we are saved we are actually spiritually dead. Our spirit cannot connect with God because it is tainted with our sin. When we accept Christ as our savior something supernatural happens; we receive a gift from God called The Holy Spirit. Jesus talks about how this will happen at the last supper.

John 15: 16-17

And I (Jesus) will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you. He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. The world cannot receive him, because it isn't looking for him and doesn't recognize him. But you know him, because he lives with you now and later will be in you.

The Holy Spirit is God's Spirit living within us. It replaces our dead spirit with a new one that is completely in tune with God the Father and with Jesus. It is actually the 3rd part of what is called the Trinity: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Because God did this for us we can now say we are a "New Creation".

2 Corinthians 5:17

This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

Ezekiel 36:26

"And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart."

2. How did your heart change when you became new in Christ?

Becoming a new creation is exciting indeed! But as mortal humans many of us get stuck in this part of our journey. Old patterns of thinking and behaviors seem to still crop up in our lives and may make us think we were never saved at all. This is because even though we have the Spirit of God living in us, our mind still carries memories and beliefs from the time before we were saved. Paul tells us that it is a process that takes place over time to renew our minds.

Romans 12:2

Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

What Paul is telling us is that we need to learn God's truths from His word (The Bible) and allow it to change the way we think about things. We have a choice every moment of our lives to live like our old selves, which the Bible calls our flesh, or by our new self, which is called the Spirit.

3. Discuss a time you encountered a moment like this where you had to choose between living in your flesh or living in the Spirit.

Galatians 5:16 KJV

This I say then, "Walk in the Spirit and you will not fulfill the lust of the flesh."

As we grow in understanding that we have been given a new birth through the Holy Spirit, we have the power to become more and more like Christ. We can let go of old sin patterns, habits, and thoughts and learn to believe that we are now adopted sons and daughters of the most high God. Our identity changes from being concerned about what others think of us to believing what God says is true about us. We are forgiven, loved, and acceptable to the Father.

Romans 8:1-2

So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. And because you belong to him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death.

John 8:36

So if the Son sets you free, you are truly free.

Video-Identity in Christ**Key ideas for discussion.**

1. How does the possibility of being a "New Creation" affect how you think about your life?
2. What questions do you have about becoming a New Creation or being "born again"?
3. How does the Holy Spirit work in our lives to help us navigate our new identity in Christ?

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Action Step:

This week consider the areas of your life where you have not yet surrendered your old self and allowed the Holy Spirit to be your guide. Write these down and start to pray each day about letting go of these old patterns and thoughts and to learn to trust who God says you are.

Additional verses for this lesson:**Galatians 5:1**

So Christ has truly set us free. Now make sure that you stay free, and don't get tied up again in slavery to the law.

Galatians 5:25

If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

1 Peter 1:23

For you have been born again, but not to a life that will quickly end. Your new life will last forever because it comes from the eternal, living word of God.

Colossians 1:27

For God wanted them to know that the riches and glory of Christ are for you Gentiles, too. And this is the secret: Christ lives in you. This gives you assurance of sharing his glory.

