

THE NEW-CREATION LIFE

*... if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things
have passed away; behold, all things have become new.
2 Corinthians 5:17*

All who receive Jesus as Lord and Savior are “in Christ” because they are baptized “into” Him by the Holy Spirit.

For as the body is one and has many members ... so also is Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body ... 1 Corinthians 12:12-13

Paul follows his statement in Romans 5:12 that Adam brought sin and death into the world, with “*Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come.*” Romans 5:14b.

Adam is like Jesus. Paul names Jesus “*The Last Adam*” in 1 Corinthians 15:45. Adam and Jesus are alike because each is the head of a race and passes on to those entering his race things true of himself.

According to Romans 5:12 all human beings entered the race of Adam with a sin nature and a death nature. Those baptized into Jesus by the Holy Spirit enter His race spiritually crucified, buried and resurrected. Read Romans 6:3-5.

... as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection.

The verses above explain why those “in Christ” are a new creation. *They are crucified, buried, and resurrected.*

There are four features to our crucifixion—we died to sin (Romans 6:2), our old man (self) has been crucified (Romans 6:6), we are dead to the law (Romans 7:4), and we are crucified to the world. (Galatians 6:14)

There are two features to our burial—our old man who has been crucified has been buried away in preparation for our spiritual resurrection.

There are three features to our resurrection—the life of God has entered us, we have been raised up from among the (spiritually) dead, and we have been seated with Christ in heavenly places. (Ephesians 2:4-6)

Sadly though, all believers are not experiencing their new-creation life. Why? Consider the following.

There are things true of us in the Christian life we will not experience until we believe they are true of us and choose to experience them.

In light of the above statement, we must *believe* we are crucified, buried, and resurrected and we must *choose* to experience our new-creation life. With five commands listed in Romans 6:11-13 Paul guides us in both *believing* and *choosing to experience* our new-creation life.

Command 1: ... *reckon (believe) yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.* Romans 6:11

Think of the word “sin” as referring to our sin nature. According to Romans 1:22 our sin nature is that *we think we are wise*. That is, we have a “know-it-all attitude.” We are to believe that we are dead as far as our “know-it-all attitude” is concerned and cannot respond to it.

Command 2: *Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts.* Romans 6:12

We obey this command by choosing not to live out of our attitude that we are wise—not to live out of our own point of view. This leaves us free to live out of God’s point of view.

Command 3: *And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin ...* Romans 6:13a

We obey this command by choosing not to give any part of our bodies to our own point of view.

Command 4: ... *present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead ...* Romans 6:13b

We obey this command by giving our lives to God as those who are crucified, buried, and resurrected. We believe that every feature of our crucifixion, burial, and resurrection is true of us.

Command 5 ... *[present] your members as instruments of righteousness to God.*

We obey this command by choosing to give every part of our bodies to God for Him to express His righteousness through us.

FOR MORE MATERIAL

discussing “the new-creation life”

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