

The New Man and the New Birth

Introduction

Today I want to talk to you about the New Birth and the New Man. Most of us know what the New Birth and the New Man are but I want to delve it a little bit deeper than maybe what you know and are aware of.

I think that many of us live our lives in two compartments, our life in church and our life in the world when God clearly says in His Word that we must come out of the world and live for Him.

*The famous passage in **2 Corinthians 6**, talking about being unequally yoked with no believers, ends with this in verse 16-18 "16As God has said: "I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people."17 Therefore, "Come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you."18 And, "I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty."*

God wants you separate from the things of the world because only when you are separated from the cares and burdens of this world, can you hear what He wants to tell you and can He speak into your life.

Romans 12:1-2 puts it like this - *"Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. 2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will."*

God wants to you and I, to show the world His goodness, blessing, love, joy, peace, patients and provision through being a blessing to others.

In fact He wants us to demonstrate the very characteristic of God to the world around us, He wants to demonstrate it and through your and my life. Will you let Him do it in your life? Are you prepared to give up yourself over to His mighty power? Are you willing today to make a spring clean of your Christian life and live as He instructs you to, no matter the cost?

The problem is that many Christian today live lives parallel to the world, in fact so parallel that many people in the world see no difference between you and them.

And through God's help we need to change our lives, our issues, our lifestyle, the way we speak, act and do in line with His Word. For some of us this life style change will start by reading God's instruction manual and start doing what He says we must do.

Many are called

Everyone here believes that some Christians are called to do some special task for God. Do you believe that there are people here who God has called to do something special for Him?

Maybe you think it is only the pastor, maybe a missionary, maybe an evangelist or someone else who are called to God's work. The truth is that God has called all of us here to be a light to the world. We have all been called into His ministry.

Every person who has accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour has also signed up to evangelise to be a special messenger to the world and tell people about Jesus.

Matthew 23:14 says that ¹⁴ *"For many are invited, but few are chosen."* We are all called into God's service today but the sad fact is that many will not step up and do what God has called them to do.

There were many better people to be evangelists than I am, there are better people than I to go to Malawi and preach the Gospel there. I guess I was not God's first choice to come here and I sincerely believe that there were other people better qualified than I am, when God called but they did not heed His call.

There are many people, who God has spoke to join our church but they refuse and that is okay, it is their choice but it still does mean they are not in God's will.

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I do not know if you realise what happened to you the day you gave your heart to Jesus Christ. I believe when you understand this you will not want to sin or do things that would put a frown on God's forehead.

- Firstly you gave up your old life, the old way of doing things and became a new person, a baby Christian born into God's universal church by turning from your old life, through repentance to your new life in Christ. When God looks at you now, He only sees Jesus, all your sins, your past, all the ugly things you one did are hidden in Christ Jesus.

You receive Grace, God's riches at Christ's experience. Everything God has to offer at no cost because the price was paid at Calvary by Jesus Christ.

- Secondly there was a Devine exchange that happened. God took all your sins and placed them on Jesus, who washed away every stain of sin and God adopted you as His own son or daughter with all the heavenly blessings at your disposal.

You were crowned a prince or princess and given a white robe and even a new name in Christ Jesus. Everything and I mean everything, you see Christ do in scripture and more has already been given to you, we just need to take it in faith.

- Next He made you His son and His daughter and with that He also made you his heir, and heir to eternal life but also an heir to His eternal kingdom. You are meant to rule and reign with Him as His son and daughter or a princes and princesses.

This would include a mansion built to your exact liking in the Holy city of God, the New Jerusalem and also you have been betrothed to Jesus by becoming another portion of His universal bride.

- Next you we are immediately declared guiltless and free of any sin and are declared sanctified, Holy and righteous – in right standing with God. You were allowed unrestricted access to God, anytime you want.

All accusations against you, all penalties, all punishments, all wrath and revenge that you sin deserves has been forgiven and you are declared guiltless and free in Christ Jesus.

- Next our names have been entered into the Lambs book of Life. This is very important fact because the ink used here is never erased. Your name is not pencilled in, it is written with a permanent marker, forever – only you can remove it, God will never erase it.

As I said many times before we live by Christ Grace but before grace always comes repentance. We will still sin but the difference now is that our sin is not counted against us if we repent (this is continuous tense).

Nobody ever said, when you become a Christian you will never sin again, because doing so would be a lie, the truth is all of us sin, the bible even says that ALL have sinned and fallen short of the Glory of God. Let's look at **1 John 1:6-10**

⁶ If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. ⁷ But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. ⁸ If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us."

If we say we are Christians but still walk in darkness, we lie because no born again Christian will and should continue to walk in their sin, their old way of life. If you are still doing the things you did before being saved then you seriously need to have a look at your Christianity. There is something wrong.

When you walk in Jesus' light, forgiveness towards others, you walk as a true Christian should then you and God will have fellowship / communion, my question is do you have communion with God daily? When you live in this communion with God, the word says your sins are forgiven. So how should we live?

The last part, if we claim to be without sin, we are deceived, only when you realise that you are a sinner, will you come to Him and confess your sins and when you do, God will not only forgive you but cleanse you.

This is a daily walk with God. It is not that our sins are not forgiven in Christ but that we own up to the wrong we do, do daily. When you can see you sin and realise the cost of it will you start doing something about it? Repentance is always the door to forgiveness, but repentance always means we turn away from the sin and forsake it.

- Next we are given gifts, firstly the gift of redemption and then the gift of the Spirit (Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Long suffering, gentleness and self control), but most importantly we are given the Holy Spirit as our councillor, confident and guide.
- Next we are perfected in His image, or made the new creation and we have the privilege of being called a Christian or Christ like, Christ representatives. We are all

become Christ's Ambassadors to this world, what He did here on earth we too can and should do!

The New Man

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come The old has gone, the new is here! 18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: 19 that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. 20 We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. 21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

As we close I just want to emphasise the New Man / Woman you became when you were born again.

As our text says, if anyone, any person – be in Christ, he IS a NEW creation. As I said before the Greek word here means a new species, a species called a Christian.

So we could paraphrase verse 17 as follows, "If anyone is born again in Christ, he is a new creature called a Christian. His old life, the life he once lived is passed, he must never return to it. And his new life has begun in Christ Jesus. And Christ Jesus will make everything new"

- Firstly this New man is available to any person who get born again. We all become/became a new species the day we are born again. The problem is that most of us do not live as a new creation and then we want the title of Christian.

You cannot call yourself a Christian unless you have become the New Man in Christ. That is why there is so much confusing today about Christianity. Many people use the name because they go to church or follow a religion based on Christ. But as I said before a Christian is someone who has become born again but accepting Christ as their Saviour and who has become and continues to live as the new creation in Christ – that is the definition of a Christian

- Secondly God wants us to be a new creation so that He can use us as His ambassadors here on earth. He wants to demonstrate His Glory through us. He wants people who will act as His ambassadors, what He says we say, what He does we do, where He sends we Go, what He asks for we give etc.
- Why all this, why does he want ambassadors, so that people will be drawn to Him through our life, our lifestyle, our faith and our walk with God. That people will be drawn to Him, through our life, our testimony.

Closing

In closing, what sort of Christian are you? Are you a new creation or must you go to God and say Lord, I am sorry I have missed it BIG time.

Are you an ambassador for Christ in your work, with your family and friends, in front of the whole world or are people surprised to hear that you are a Christian, never mind and ambassador. God wants you to live like His ambassador, starting today!

Let's pray