

# Topic 3: All Things New

## Understanding Who You Are in Christ – Part 1

*“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!”*  
2 Corinthians 5:17

When doesn't love new stuff? The smell of a new car. The joy of making a new friend. The fun of discovering a great new restaurant or ideal vacation spot.

*New* means different. It hints of surprise and tantalizes us with the possibility of breaking out of old ruts. *New* almost always means an upgrade – thus the overused marketing phrase “new and improved.”

The promise of the gospel is that faith in Christ brings new (and improved!) life – right here and right now.

A lot of people see religious faith as being mostly about one's *past*: “For much of my life I lived in terrible ways. But then I heard the good news of Jesus. I trusted him, and he forgave all my sins.”

Or they see salvation as being primarily a *future* thing: “Because of Jesus, when I die, I'm going to heaven!”

While both of these things are true, there's also the fact that salvation has incredible implications for everyday life in the present!

### Theologians like to say that salvation has three aspects:

Penalty of sin	Power of sin	Presence of sin
The doctrine of justification	The doctrine of sanctification	The doctrine of glorification (in the life to come when we finally meet Christ face to face)

It is this second aspect we primarily want to concentrate on in this study. We want to look at the phenomenal changes brought on by “so great a salvation” (Hebrews 2:3). The gospel doesn't only address our former lives, and it doesn't merely provide eternal life when we die. The gospel is also about new life *now*.

#### So Great a Salvation!

Salvation through Jesus Christ brings great benefits, but among the more obvious blessings are

- a new life
- new standing with God
- a new identity
- a new nature (and thus new desires and new struggles!)
- a new power to live as we should!

## KEY TERMS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT SALVATION

Condemnation: Romans 8:1

Redemption: Acts 20:28; - Ephesians 1:7

Imputation: Romans 5:12-19

Justification: Romans 5:1; Galatians 2:16

Regeneration: John 3:5; Titus 3:5

Reconciliation: Romans 5:10; Colossians 1:21-22

Adoption: Romans 8:15; Galatians 4:5; Ephesians 1:5

Sanctification: Romans 6:19; Hebrews 12:14

Glorification: 1 John 3:2

Conversion: Acts 15:3, 26:18

# Looking At the Text

## New Life

1. Read Ephesians 2:1-10. What does it mean that non-believers in Christ are “dead in . . . transgressions and sins” (v. 1)? How does it make you feel to know that apart from Christ, we are “separated from the life of God” (Ephesians 4:18), but that when we trusted in Jesus, “God . . . made us alive with Christ” (Ephesians 2:4-5)?

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## New Standing With God

2. Read Romans 5:1-21. In the same way we all became sinners as the result of the actions of one man (Adam), we can be justified before God through the acts of another (Jesus). What are some of the things these verses tell us we can enjoy as a result of our new standing with God?

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## New Identity

When we accept Christ we are given new names, a new identity. We are now beloved, accepted, forgiven, chosen – we are children of God.

3. Read Romans 8:5-17

a. Read verses 14-16 again. What does it mean that we are children of God?

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b. Now read verse 17 again. As an heir of God and co-heirs of Christ what does this verse say we share in Him?

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Next week:      New Nature, New Desires (and New Struggles), and New Power