

THE NEW MAN

Text: Colossians 3:9-11

The Basis of Conduct

INTRODUCTION: The Bible illustrates salvation by two pictures: death and resurrection. In Christ we die to sin. Now, some die and stop there. I know of entire churches that are dead! That is the negative side, but there is a positive side. God fills the vacuum. There must be a new man, new heart, new nature, new desires, etc.

God originally created man for his own glory, but man through sin fell from his high place and polluted the heart made for God's praise. So Christ came into the world to create new men. As by Adam's disobedience many were made sinners, by Christ's obedience many shall be made righteous.

*Christianity provides the world with its greatest need: new men. You can not make a new world out of old men--can not make a good world out of bad men. Man must be changed, his heart and nature, and then his deeds.

When a man is saved, united to Christ, such a change transpires that he is actually a new man. *There was an old nature, old man, sinful, living in me & dominating my actions, but now a new man has been created in me & controls.*
old man = unregenerate nature, as in Adam
new man = regenerate nature, as in X

I. THE CREATION OF THE NEW MAN. Verse 10

The believer has ceased to be what he was, and the mark of his conversion is the putting away of the old sinful self and the putting on of the new man. This is what it means to be a Christian--to be made a new man in Christ.

necessitates a new birth
1. This is the product of regeneration--the new birth.

generation = birth
re-generation = rebirth
How did the old man come into being? By birth. The new man comes into being by a NEW BIRTH. This is not something man does for himself, no more than natural birth is a result of his own will.

this word is the key to understanding doctrine of salvation.

2. This is a creation of God.

The new birth is a creation of God. " Corinthians 5:17.
The new man is new in the sense that he did not exist before.
God created him. This is not self-development, or renovation,
or a surface remodeling, but an entirely new man, a new creation.

- (1) God alone can create-- God alone can bring about the change in a man's life.
- (2) Creation is instantaneous-- so is salvation--the moment the life is committed to Christ.
- (3) Creation is something out of nothing, without the use of pre-existing materials. It implies--no past, as does birth also. Old life gone, with its sins.
 - a. This is the only way to strip the foul garments of sin from a man. Regeneration first, moral change second. To try to begin with the second stage is like trying to build a house by beginning at the second story.
 - b. Change the climate, and you change the vegetation. Change the nature, change the character.



The new creation^{ed} by the creative power of the grace of the gospel. To create the world, God spoke only a word, to re-creat man, he gave His only Son.

Grace is the great Creator of the Gospel--created Bethlehem, Gethsemene, Calvary, and the Christian.

Here is the difference in a lost man that reads the Bible and a Christian who reads the Bible--it changes the Christian and makes him more like Christ.

II. THE CONTINUOUS GROWTH OF THE NEW MAN.

Bad apple gets worse & worse

Both types of nature progress and grow. In the lost man, the old nature "waxeth corrupt" and grows more sinful with accelerating speed downwards. Likewise with the Christian the new nature increases and grows upward.

we have too many stagnant Xians, no movement

2- The new nature is not static. Like a new baby it grows. The new man is continually renewed by God. *ever fresh, active*

3- This renewal is done upon the new man by God. God is the Father, He will nurture the babe in Christ. This is security. "He that hath begun a good work in you will bring it to completion in the day of Christ."

1. The Aim of the Growth--"unto perfect knowledge."

God renews us in order that we might grow in spiritual knowledge.

(1) The life is determined by knowledge. Our actions are based on our knowledge. We know a snake is poisonous, we act with caution. Now, if our knowledge and perception is impaired, we may unknowingly injure ourselves.

a. Natural's man's conscious is impaired, marred by sin, unsafe to follow; spiritually ignorant.

"the wicked know not at what they stumble - their way is darkness"

b. In the Christian God renews his life and gives him moral and spiritual discernment. We know the difference between right and wrong. Out of this spiritual knowledge grows spiritual good works. A man gains the spiritual knowledge of his witnessing responsibility and he begins to visit.

(2) True knowledge of God comes from likeness to Christ. The wisest man is the man who strives to please God in all things. Even a child can tap the great reservoir of knowledge which is in Christ. "Fools make a mock at sin."

2. The End Purpose and Pattern of the Growth.

"After the image of him that created him." Christ-likeness is the character of this growth and knowledge. The purpose of this knowledge, which results in action is to make us like Jesus. If all your learning does not make you Christ-like---?

Here is the difference in a lost man that reads the Bible and a Christian who reads the Bible--It changes the Christian and makes him more like Christ.

(1) This refers to the growth of the new life toward the stature of the perfect man in Christ Jesus. Rom. 8:29.

(2) Our new life does not decay or grow old, but takes upon itself more and more the image of its Creator--- our growing likeness to Christ.

His holiness, etc., are mirrored in our lives. The ultimate goal for every Christian, ultimate purpose of God, reason Christ died, and Spirit indwells.

What we might better serve God.

Christ was just servant of the Father.

In Christ, we are not only... This is answer to world... bitterly divided by race, color, and... the church too easily succumbs to... is a truth which needs to be constantly... magnet towards the one center in himself, Christ in all... and if Christ died for him, he is a brother in X.

III. THE CONTROLLING FORCE IN THE NEW MAN.

"Christ is all and in all."

1. Christ is in all--permeating and indwelling every Christian.

Wherever that new nature is found, it lives by the life of Christ. He dwells in all who possess this new life. His blood passes into their veins. The holy desires, the new tastes, the new love--all are His as He dwells in us. Before we "lived" in sin, but now Christ is our very life.

(1) This means that we share His compassion for the lost.

(2) He shares our earthly experience.

(3) We see sin through the eyes of Christ.

not so much living for x as letting x live through us - we yield our bodies to Him - He dwells in them & controls them - we often rebel & refuse to let x live & work through our bodies,

2. Christ is all.

Christ is everything--all that matters. Ill- of class distinction in the church. These are no longer important, Christ is all that matters. Not only the old habits and attitudes are abolished in the new man. The barriers that divide men from one another are abolished as well. Christ obliterates all distinctions which separate men from one another.

(1) Racial--Jew and Greek

(2) Religious

(3) Cultural

(4) Social

These are the Iron Curtains in our country.

Some men say that culture is everything, or social standing, or race is all that matters, and they live accordingly. But in the Christian, "Christ is all that matters!" In everything, and in every way--Christ! These distinctions cannot be a barrier between two men for whom Christ died. Christ is all that matters, so He controls my actions.

In Christ, we are not only reconciled to God, but to one another. This is answer to world tension. In a world still bitterly divided by race, color, and social status, and in which the church too easily succumbs to conventional attitudes, here is a truth which needs to be constantly recalled. Christ is the magnet towards the one center in Himself. Christ is all that matters and if Christ died for Him, He is a brother in X.