

If anyone is in Christ – new creation

Our work together in the Scriptures for the last three months has been to discover what the Bible says about what it means to be human.

/What is man?\

We have seen the creation of man in the garden. We have observed the fall of man.

And we have marveled at the unique humanity of our Lord Jesus Christ.

/The resurrected, ascended, and seated Christ is a completely new kind of Man. \

We have now seen two men who are polar opposites.

/There is fallen man: Adam.

There is glorified Man: Christ.\

The entire story of the human race is wrapped up in the legacies of these two men, Adam and Jesus.

Each and every member of the human race, at any point in time, is related to one - but only one – of these two men.

Last Sunday, we examined the principle of Federal headship. Recall that

/The term “Federal” is used to indicate the action of one for all in a representative manner; or for the consequences of such action. \

/Verses 12-21 of Romans 5 present the two representative Men, Adam and Christ. The Federal heads of the two human species. In Adam and in Christ. \

In chapter 5, verses 12 to 21, God traces the history and state of human sin all the way back to Adam, as our representative head, who stood for us, and whose sin became condemnation and death to us.

And shows us Christ, as the other representative Man (whom Adam prefigured), by His act of death on the cross bringing justification and life to believers.

/Condemnation by Adam's trespass, justification by Christ's righteous act of death.\

The act of the one representative, and not of the ones represented, brought to result to pass. So now we look back to the act that set us down as sinners, instead of our own sins.....and the act that sets us down as righteous, apart from our own works.

This has tremendous implications for the salvation of the believer. Our sins had nothing to do with our condemnation. Adam's sin did that. Our deeds have nothing to do with being declared righteous by God. The one act of Christ's death on the cross did that.

We are now ready to explore the kind of man we are.

/What kind of humanity is the Church age believer?\

We begin in 2 Corinthians 5:14

2 Cor 5:14-17

14 For the love of the Christ constrains us, having judged this: that one died for all, then all have died;

15 and he died for all, that they who live should no longer live to themselves, but to him who died for them and has been raised.

16 So that we henceforth know no one according to flesh; but if even we have known Christ according to flesh, yet now we know [him thus] no longer.

17 So if any one [be] in Christ, [there is] a new creation; the old things have passed away; behold all things have become new:

Darby

Whoever is in Christ is a brand-new creation.

The old things about him have passed away. This new creation is a completely new humanity.

/The expression “new creation” refers to a new act of creation by God, as well as the newly-created person .\

By His sovereign act, God has brought something into being out of nothing.

/This is exactly parallel to the first time God created humanity, in Genesis 1.\

Gen 1:26-27

26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." 27

God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

NASU

/And now, for the second time, for the final time, God has created a new human race. \

2 Cor 5:17 So if any one [be] in Christ, [there is] a new creation; the old things have passed away; behold all things have become new:

/This time, He created a kind of humanity that is the spiritual man, designed for a heavenly existence.\

1 Cor 15:45-49

45 So also it is written, "The first MAN, Adam, BECAME A LIVING SOUL." The last Adam became a life-giving spirit. 46 However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural; then the spiritual. 47 The first man is from the earth, earthy; the second man is from heaven.

48 As is the earthy, so also are those who are earthy; and as is the heavenly, so also are those who are heavenly. 49 Just as we have borne the image of the earthy, we will also bear the image of the heavenly.

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/The new creation is not the old creation improved. \

The new man is not an improved version of the old man. It's not the old man after he's been cleaned up and straightened out.

The old man hasn't been reformed or re-educated. The old man did not evolve into the new man.

[picture]

/In fact, the old man of ours was crucified with Christ according to Romans 6:6.\

Rom 6:5-6

5 For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, 6 knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.

NKJV

2 Cor 5:17 So if any one [be] in Christ, [there is] a new creation; the old things have passed away; behold all things have become new:

The old things have passed away for anyone who is in Christ.

/What are these old things?\

These are the things associated with who we were in Adam.

/Ephesians 4:22 refers to them as our former manner of life.\

The old things are the characteristics of the old humanity in Adam.

Eph 2:1-3

And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, 2 in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. 3 Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest. 4

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Old things - being dead in trespasses and sins.

/Old things – walking according to the course of this world.\

The old things, the former manner of living, meant walking according to the prince of the power of the air – satan.

/The old things included living in the lusts of our flesh.\

The old things included indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind.

/The old things added up to who we were by nature: children of wrath.\

/Humanity in Adam has a depraved mind.\
/He behaves wickedly and adopts many evil practices. \
/The old man has a hardened heart and lustful desires.\
/He is full of deceit.\

These are the old things. But these things have passed away for the person who is in Christ Jesus.

2 Cor 5:17 So if any one [be] in Christ, [there is] a new creation; the old things have passed away; behold all things have become new:

New things have come into being.

/These are the things that are associated with our new humanity in Christ.\

/The new man has a new status before God.\

/The new man has new desires and capacities. \

/The new man has a new mind, the mind of Christ.\

/The new man has a new life, and a new destiny.\

Old things have passed away, new things are here to stay.

Rom 8:5-10

5 For they that are according to flesh mind the things of the flesh; and they that are according to Spirit, the things of the Spirit.

6 For the mind of the flesh [is] death; but the mind of the Spirit life and peace.

7 Because the mind of the flesh is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God; for neither indeed can it be:

8 and they that are in flesh cannot please God.

9 But ye are not in flesh but in Spirit, if indeed God's Spirit dwell in you; but if any one has not [the] Spirit of Christ he is not of him:

10 but if Christ be in you, the body is dead on account of sin, but the Spirit life on account of righteousness.

Darby

In the book of Ephesians and in the book of Colossians, this new humanity is called the New Man. There are three key passages that speak directly about the New Man.

How did he come into being?

What are his characteristics?

And what is his destiny?

That's where we will pick things up next Sunday.

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