

## Seated with Christ in the heavenlies

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?\

Man was created in God's image and likeness. But Adam fell and the human race fell with him.

Then God sent His Son who became flesh and died for our sins. He died, was buried, was raised from the dead, ascended into heaven and is seated at the Right Hand of the Father.

/And now we are learning about the new man in Christ. \

Every church age believer is a new creation in Christ Jesus.

As we end our series on what it means to be human, I'd like to give you some highlights about this New Man. This is who you are now as a believer in Christ.

/1. The first thing about the new man is that he is a spiritual man.\

/He is born of the Spirit.\

*John 3:5-8*

*5 Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. 6 "That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 "Do not be amazed that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' 8 "The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit."*

/He is the spiritual man.\

*Rom 8:9*

*9 However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.*

*1 Cor 2:12-16*

*12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God, 13 which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words.*

*14 But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised. 15 But he who is spiritual appraises all things, yet he himself is appraised by no one. 16 For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, THAT HE WILL INSTRUCT HIM? But we have the mind of Christ.*

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/2. He is heavenly – created by God in His image for a heavenly life and destiny: \

*Eph 2:4-7*

*4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.*

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*Col 3:1-4*

*Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. 3 For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.*

/3. The believer in Christ has been given a new life:\

*John 10:10*

*10 "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.*

*Rom 6:23*

*For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

/4. He is the adopted son of God, a member of God's family.\

*Eph 1:3-6*

*3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, 4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love 5 He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself,*

*according to the kind intention of His will, 6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.*

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*Gal 3:26-27*

*26 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. 27 For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.*

/5. He has a new identity before God, having been baptized into Christ by the Holy Spirit. \

The church is the corporate New Man. In that sense, there is one New Man. /The church is the body of Christ. Each believer is a member of that body.\

*Eph 1:22-23*

*22 And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, 23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.*

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*1 Cor 12:12-13*

*12 For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ. 13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.*

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*/We derive our complete identity and life from Christ, who is everything for us.\*

*1 Cor 1:30-31*

*30 But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption, 31 so that, just as it is written, "LET HIM WHO BOASTS, BOAST IN THE LORD."*

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*/6. And, this new man is bound for glory. \*

*John 17:22-24*

*22 "The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one; 23 I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me. 24 "Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, be with Me where I am, so that they may see My glory which You have given Me, for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.*

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*Rom 8:28-30*

*28 And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. 29 For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; 30 and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.*

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/We know that we will be glorified one day, because Christ is in us.\

*Col 1:26-27*

*26 that is, the mystery which has been hidden from the past ages and generations, but has now been manifested to His saints, 27 to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.*

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At the start of this series on what it means to be human, we saw that man was created with a mind, a heart, a soul, and a body.

What about the New Man?

/7. The Scriptures say that the New Man has a spirit, a soul, a mind, and a body.\

*1 Thess 5:23-24*

*23 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

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*Rom 8:6*

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

*Darby*

/But here's the fascinating thing: God is still at work perfecting the new man, the believer in Christ.\

Ephesians 4:24 speaks directly about the new man. This is what it says:

*Eph 4:22 that ye put away, as concerning your former manner of life, the old man, that waxeth corrupt after the lusts of deceit;*

*23 and that ye **be renewed in the spirit of your mind,***

*24 and put on the new man, that after God hath been **created in righteousness and holiness of truth.** ASV*

/Our spirit was created perfect. \ God created our spirit in righteousness and holiness of the truth. He created our spirit in His image.

What about our mind? /Well, the epistles say that we have a new mind, a spiritual mind. Yet that mind is still in the process of being transformed. \

*Rom 12:2*

*And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.*

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/And our bodies? They are still bodies of corruption. They will be redeemed when Christ appears in the clouds to take us to heaven.\

*Phil 3:20-21*

*For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; 21 who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.*

And that will be instantaneous! This is our great hope – the hope of glory.

To sum up, then:

/1. The new man is a spiritual man.\

/2. He is heavenly.\

/3. He has a new life:\

/4. He is the adopted son of God.\ .

/5. He has a new identity before God, being in Christ.\

/6. He is bound for glory.\

/7. His spirit is already perfect. His mind is being renewed. His body will be redeemed when Christ comes for His church.\

And this is who you are!