

THEREFORE, IF ANYONE IS IN
CHRIST, THE NEW CREATION HAS
COME: THE OLD HAS GONE, THE
NEW IS HERE!

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17



IPC HEBRON LOS ANGELES
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From Pastor's Desk...

Transformed Life in Christ: A New Creation in Position and Practice

The moment one accepts Jesus Christ as the Lord and Savior, he becomes a new creation (2 Cor 5:17). We were by nature children of wrath and this produces all kinds of sinful acts. Satan has blinded the hearts of the unbelieving, that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ who is the image of God (2 Cor. 4:4).

The believer no longer focuses on self but focuses instead on Jesus Christ. Bible verse on new creation by Paul often quoted in personal testimonies gives impression that everything becomes literally new in one's life. The radical change takes place in one's own born -again experience leads to new heart, new lifestyle, new relationships new worship, new hope etc.

The new creation deals with one's practice in life.

For others, this verse describes one's position. The words 'in Christ' are the key to this passage and we are free from the eternal condemnation from sin. A new relationship is restored through the reconciliatory and redemptive act of Jesus Christ. We progress in our Christian life through yielding our will to the Holy Spirit. The believer no longer focuses on self but focuses instead on Jesus Christ. However, sinless perfection is not possible while we live in flesh. One day, when we are united with Christ, we will be completely free from sin's influence.

Charles C Ryrie writes in *Balancing the Christian Life*, "Salvation brings to the life a new capacity and with it a new ability to think right, to love God, to purpose to do the will of God, to have a changed heart". Everyone in Christ seeks forgiveness from our

shortcomings in daily life because we still live in our flesh. This does not grant us freedom to yield to sinful desires. We have a powerful motif to resist sin as long as we are under the grace of God.

A few questions will be helpful to recognize our identity? Do we set spiritual priorities above material while we live on earth? Do kingdom of God values above self-interests direct us in our community life? Does faith in the Lord resist the anxieties and temptations in daily life? Does Bible impact and influence you than media and technology? Is Jesus Christ the true example above all other spiritual heroes in life?

Rev. Dr. K. P. Mathew
(Senior Pastor, IPC Hebron, Los Angeles)

Identity In Christ - A New Creation

Sis: Jithsy Mathew

Life truly begins with the salvation experience. Jesus Christ died on our behalf and rose from the death. The new life is imparted to us through Christ. The old is deleted completely and cannot be recovered if we are truly in Christ. The changes we experience as we accept Christ are so radical we are considered "new".

It is like the transformation of an ugly caterpillar to a beautiful butterfly. As we read in the scripture, God is our potter and we are His clay. He will transform us into beautiful vessels with a purpose. We are reconciled to heavenly father and the connection to heaven is no longer broken.

We are a new creation. Our old perceptions, attitudes, plans, and agendas are

all wiped out. We did not achieve the eternal life but we were given freely by the grace of God. Being in Christ gives us certain privileges that we did not have previously. As new creation, we constantly have access to the throne of God and our sins are forgiven. We no longer need to live with the guilt of our sins. Christ paid for it once and for all.

In the Bible we see many characters that had this life changing experience and we see their response too. One such character was Saul, a zealous and religious man who persecuted the church, but an encounter with Christ transformed him completely. Saul, later known as Paul became a missionary who traveled to many countries to proclaim the gospel and wrote many epistles for the church. In 2 Corinthians 5:17, Paul writes "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come."

Our identity in Christ should be evident in the way we live our life in this world. We should display Christ-like characteristics. As followers of Christ, we should follow in His footsteps. We should become more concerned about living as God intends. We are ambassadors for Christ spreading his fragrance through the world.

Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."
John 3:3

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