

## ***The New Creation: The Human Spirit Made Righteous (2 Cor. 5:17)***

### **I. THE GOOD NEWS OF THE GOSPEL**

- A. Paul's dramatic declaration, that we have become a new creation in Christ with all things becoming new, has vast implications. He is referring to the new creation of our "spirit man." The real you is your spirit man that was made alive in Christ called the new creation.
- <sup>17</sup> If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new...<sup>21</sup> we...become the righteousness of God... (2 Cor. 5:17, 21)*
- B. To understand the glory of the new creation, we must first understand that God created humans with three parts—spirit, soul, and body. Man is a spirit, he has a soul, and lives in a body. Most believers do not know who they are in their spirit as they do their soul and body. Just as we train our body and soul, we must also receive training related to our spirit.
- <sup>23</sup> Your...spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of...Christ. (1 Thes. 5:23)*
- C. We were created with a spirit so that we could relate to God who is spirit. Our spirit is the place where we communicate with God directly. Our soul speaks of our personality, consisting of our mind, emotions, and will. Our body has five senses which enable us to receive from the physical world. Our spirit enables us to receive from the Spirit who guides us into all truth and reality.
- D. Before Adam sinned, his spirit governed his soul and body. His five senses were subject to his spirit. After he sinned, he became spiritually dead. He lost his ability to relate to God. Everything was reversed, and his body (five senses) and soul (emotions) gained power over his spirit. His spirit became subordinate to his senses. His spirit lost dominion and his five senses took over.
- E. At the new birth, our spirit is joined to the Spirit. Thus, we are filled with His supernatural life.
- <sup>17</sup> But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him. (1 Cor. 6:17)*
- F. At the new birth, our spirit man was created anew, not our body or soul. Our spirit was made anew—recreated, but not in the sense of being created out of nothing. We were so radically refashioned that Paul uses the term "created" (Eph. 2:10; 4:24; Col. 3:10).
- <sup>24</sup> Put on the new man which was created...in true righteousness and holiness. (Eph. 4:24)*
- <sup>10</sup> Put on the new man who is...according to the image of Him who created him... (Col. 3:10)*
- <sup>10</sup> For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus... (Eph. 2:10)*
- G. We experience the fullness of our salvation in three time frames: past, present, and future. One third of our salvation is complete, the salvation of our spirit.
1. **Past tense**: we have been saved (justification). Our spirit was created anew in holiness.
  2. **Present tense**: we are being saved (sanctification). Our soul is growing in purity.
  3. **Future tense**: we will be saved (glorification). Our body will be resurrected in glory.

- H. Our new spirit man is righteous now and forever. Just as Jesus stands righteous before God and possesses righteousness in His spirit, so do we, even in this age.  
<sup>17</sup> *We have boldness...because as He is, so are we in this world. (1 Jn. 4:17)*
- I. In the old creation, we were under condemnation before God. We were powerless before sin (at the heart level). We were under darkness, lacking the ability to understand the Word, or to receive divine direction for our life. We were destitute, without hope of a good future in God.
- J. In the new creation our condemnation passed away. Now we can feel confident that God enjoys us. Our powerlessness and darkness have passed. Now by the authority of Jesus' name and the indwelling Spirit we can walk in victory over sin and receive new understanding of God, His Word, and His will. Our former destitution has past. Now we have a divine destiny in God.
- K. Because our spirit man is very different from our soul and body, it cannot be discerned by our emotions (soul) or our five senses (body). Thus, it is referred to as “hidden” from our five senses. Paul referred to our true life or our spirit man, in this age as being “hidden” in Christ.  
<sup>4</sup> *The hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle spirit... (1 Pet. 3:4)*  
<sup>3</sup> *For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. (Col. 3:3)*
- L. Our primary orientation in our spiritual life shifts to being led by our spirit instead of from our five senses, physical appetites, and emotions. This is called walking according to the Spirit. We walk according to the Spirit (Rom. 8:1, 4, 5) by living with confidence that we are enjoyed by God, as we dialogue with the indwelling Spirit, and live by the truth of the Word.  
<sup>5</sup> *For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. (Rom. 8:5)*
- M. We are transformed by changing the way we think. We must live in agreement with God's Word. Only as our mind breaks its agreement with our flesh (five senses and emotions) are we freed. The renewing of our mind always includes the faith confession of the Word back to God.  
<sup>2</sup> *Be transformed by the renewing of your mind... (Rom. 12:2)*
- N. The “spirit of our mind” speaks of the whole atmosphere and perspective of our inner life. This involves saturating our mind with the truth, which in turn orients our life more to our spirit man.  
<sup>22</sup> *Put off...your former conduct...<sup>23</sup> and be renewed in the spirit of your mind. (Eph. 4:22-23)*  
<sup>10</sup> *The new man who is renewed in knowledge... (Col. 3:10)*  
<sup>6</sup> *The sharing [experiencing] of your faith may become effective by the acknowledgment of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus. (Philemon 6)*  
<sup>32</sup> *You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. (Jn. 8:32)*
- O. Let the Word do its work in us. Let's prove the truth of the Word in our lives by confessing it.

<sup>13</sup> *The word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe. (1 Thes. 2:13)*



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