

Following Christ -You Are A New Creation



Slice F1

You Are A New Creation

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1 Memory Verse

2 Corinthians 5:17 (ESV)

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

2 A New Creation

A new believer has become a new creation (person), there is no visible change on the outside, but there is a change on the inside. Scripture informs us that the change is centred the heart. God gives you a heart of flesh in exchange for your heart of stone.

Ezekiel 11:19 (ESV)

19 And I will give them one heart, and a new spirit I will put within them. I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart of flesh.

Ezekiel 36:26 (ESV)

26 And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

Jeremiah 31:33 (ESV)

33 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Hebrews 8:10 (ESV)

10 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord:
I will put my laws into their minds,
and write them on their hearts,
and I will be their God,
and they shall be my people.

You have a new spirit; the old spirit has gone. The mind needs to be renewed and the body must be put to death.

2 Corinthians 5:17 (ESV)

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

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Galatians 6:14–15 (ESV)

14 But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. **15** For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation.

What has happened to you? What has been the reaction of family, friends and colleagues to the new you?

3 For God So Loved The World

John tells us in his gospel:

John 3:16 (ESV)

16 'For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

For those who humble themselves believe and repent. God, through His love for us, made a way through Jesus for us to be restored in relationship with Him. When we believe 'Jesus is Lord' and that He rose from the dead, God saves us. We receive His salvation; meaning we are rescued from eternal separation from God in hell and restored to a right relationship with Him through Christ.

Romans 10:9–10 (ESV)

9 because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. **10** For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.

In the Bible, repentance involves a complete and irreversible change in mind, heart and actions. Repentance acknowledges that our sin is offensive to God. To repent means to make an about-face, heart-directed turn away from self to God, from the past to a future ruled by God's commands, acknowledging that the Lord reigns supreme over your existence.

John 3:3 (ESV)

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

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John 3:7 (ESV)

7 Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'

4 New Creation Realities

A person is rescued because they are loved, forgiven and accepted.

4.1 Loved By God

John 3:16 reveals the Love (Agape) that God has for each one of us; God Loves (Agapaos) you personally. Christianity is based on Love. Jesus revealed His great Love for us in that He was willing to die for our sins, so part of being a New Creation is that we must also love others.

1 John 4:7–8 (ESV)

7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.

4.2 Forgiveness

When a person repents and is truly remorseful for their sins, God does not hold that sin against them. No person is perfect, we are all fallible individuals who have the propensity to sin in the future. But if we confess our sins to God, He will forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:9 (ESV)

9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

4.3 Acceptance

God is a loving Father and accepts you as you are in Christ. Then, just as a parent does with a young child, He takes on the responsibility of training His children.

4.4 Grace

Grace in scripture is a favour from God that is not earned, or even deserved. Believers receive unmerited favour because of God's great Love for us. The first four books of the New Testament are called the Gospels and they carry the good news of God's grace made available to all.

4.5 Mercy

The grace that God provides for each believer reveals His mercy; we do not receive the punishment that we deserve.

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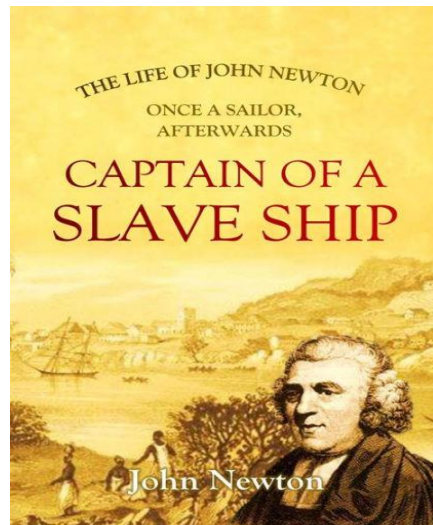
Ephesians 2:8–9 (ESV)

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, **9** not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

You were rescued because God wanted to rescue you, He has a plan and purpose for your life and He rescued you, just as you are, because that is what grace is.

The great hymn 'Amazing Grace' was written in 1779 by John Newton, a despicable slave ship captain. Yet even he was able to find God's grace, which led him to write the words: 'Amazing grace how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me. I once was lost, but now I'm found, was blind but now I see.' God used John Newton in the battle to end slavery in Britain in 1787 when he helped William Wilberforce found the Society for Effecting the Abolition of the Slave Trade.

John Newton became a 'New Person' because of the grace of God.



Just as God was able to radically change the life of John Newton, so is He also able to change your life.

Remember that Paul describes us as a 'new creation,' our old sinful nature was nailed to the cross with Jesus and our lives are no longer worldly; they are now spiritual. We do not inherit this new nature, nor do we merely clean up our old selves, we have been created anew. We are completely new, the work of an all-powerful creator God; our old self has died and we are raised up to 'walk in newness of life'

Romans 6:4 (ESV)

4 We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

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5 Christ Birthed In You

Galatians 2:20 (ESV)

20 I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

The miracle of new birth is that Christ lives in you. Your old spirit man no longer lives, but as a new creation, you live in Christ. You are a spirit being, a little Christ, and your life is now His Life. You have now been enabled to walk and live in the Spirit. This life is now activated by faith in the Son of God.

Colossians 3:4 (ESV)

4 When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

Christ is now your only life. You are no longer of this world, although we are in the world according to our bodies but, in reality, we are now alive to the realm of the Life of Christ; His Kingdom and Righteousness.

1 Corinthians 1:30 (ESV)

30 And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption,

Christ is now your wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption.

Colossians 1:13–14 (ESV)

13 He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, **14** in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

We have been transferred or translated to the Kingdom of His beloved Son. We are no longer under the dominion of darkness; satan and his kingdom.

5.1 Birthing

John 3:3 (ESV)

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

This is essential in that you are not converted or have a change of mind. You must be born again by the Holy Spirit so that you can be born of Christ. You have received a new spirit and walk into an exchanged Life. Now you live in Christ; *He* is now your Life.

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John 3:5 (ESV)

5 Jesus answered, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.

1 John 5:1 (ESV)

1 Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him.

1 John 5:12 (ESV)

12 Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

We know the Life of Christ; let us live it in and through Him

1 John 5:18 (ESV)

18 We know that everyone who has been born of God does not keep on sinning, but he who was born of God protects him, and the evil one does not touch him.

1 Peter 1:23 (NKJV)

23 having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever,

The incorruptible seed of Christ is in you. Wow, the kingdom of God is now within you! Rivers of living water are now flowing from within your spirit.

6 The Grace of God – New Nature

The grace of God has been provided for us through the selfless action of our Lord and Saviour Jesus; the process of our new creation shapes us into the image of our Saviour. The Old nature was driven by pride and focused on self, our new nature is to be humble and selfless. Our focus changes from a life motivated by self-promotion to a life that promotes Jesus. The new creation is a part of the restoration plan that God has for mankind, which is continuous. The light that God shone into our lives to bring conviction and repentance, now shines out of us to others when we take on the nature of Jesus.

Does being a 'new creation' mean that the new believer no longer sins? No, of course it does not. We remain fallible, the believer will continue to make mistakes and sin, but we must not live in sin. The worldly sinful life no longer has power over the believer.

Romans 6:6–7 (ESV)

6 We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. 7 For one who has died has been set free from sin.

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The believer is empowered by and for righteousness, now having a desire to honour and draw closer to God. The new believer will start on the long journey of sanctification, where God works in their life to continue to refine and purify the individual:

2 Peter 1:4 (ESV)

4 by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.

You now have Christ's nature within you.

Philippians 2:12–13 (ESV)

12 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, **13** for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Titus 2:11–14 (ESV)

11 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, **12** training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, **13** waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ, **14** who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.



7 New Relationship With Father God

The new believer not only becomes a new person but also enters into a new relationship with God as their Father. We are the Father's sons in Christ by the Holy Spirit.

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God is given numerous names in scripture that identify the many different aspects of the nature of God. An example is Yahweh Jireh – the Lord provides. However, there is one name that is more endearing than any other name you can use for God. That name is Father:

John 1:12–13 (ESV)

12 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, **13** who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

We must not approach our relationship with God as either just Lord or just Father, He is not either/or but rather both/and. We are required to revere God and to respect Him as Lord over our lives, but He is also a loving God who cares deeply for us and is our 'Abba, Father'.

Romans 8:15 (ESV)

15 For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, 'Abba! Father!'

The closest that man can come to this relationship is that of a King and his son in ancient times, where the king when on his throne in court was to be held in high esteem. Any transgression of protocol could result in death for the individual concerned. Yet, when the king was in his palace with his family, he could bond with his children as a father. Believers are to rejoice in the fact that God is our loving Father, but also show Him the reverence He deserves.

8 Draw Near With Confidence

Hebrews 4:16 (ESV)

16 Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Through Jesus, we have the privilege of approaching the Throne of Grace (Hebrews 4:16) to petition our Father in prayer, a Father who loves His children and has a wonderful plan and purpose for their lives. The new believer needs to learn to develop their relationship with their New Father by spending time in worship, the study of His word and by communicating with Him in prayer.

9 Christ In You The Hope Of Glory

Colossians 1:26–27 (ESV)

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26 the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints. **27** To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

The great mystery is not only that you are born again, but are a new creation in Christ. The only hope you have is not Christ, but Christ in you. You need to know the One who is in you.

The gospel is Christ in us. Paul the apostle said 146 times that we are in Christ. The Holy Spirit works in each soul to bring us to see Christ in us. When you are filled with the Holy Spirit, the power you receive is in this, knowing Christ who is your Life.

10 Proclamation

'I am a New Creation in Christ; the old sinful spirit man has gone. I am loved, forgiven, an accepted son of God, a child born from above. I have received Christ's nature; it's a free gift of God's grace and I say, Thank you Father'.

11 Prayer

'Heavenly Father, thank you for sending Jesus to pay the price and take my place for the penalty of sin. Will you teach me by Your Holy Spirit to walk as a new creation, carrying Your image and having a testimony of the risen Christ. Help me to walk in this Life you have given me in Christ.'