

The 25th Sunday after Pentecost ~ Sunday, November 6, 2016

“Alive in Christ: Transformation in Christ”

Ephesians 4:17-32

When a person believes, confesses Jesus Christ as Lord, and is thereby born again, a _____ takes place in their basic nature.

Salvation isn't just a matter of _____ or perfection of what previously existed. In other words, when we come to Christ we aren't just made _____. We are made _____.

“So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!” (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Spiritual growth is a _____ process, through which we're gradually transformed into the likeness of _____, “from one degree of glory to another.”

metamorphoo =

“Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.” (Romans 6:4)

When we come to Christ, it's not that we just _____ something new—we _____ something new.

“I have been crucified with Christ, and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me, and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and delivered himself up for me.” (Galatians 2:20)

“But in fact it is no longer I that sin, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it...Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.” (Romans 7:17-18; 20)

Even though we're a new creation, sin is still _____ in our flesh, so that we're _____ from being able to give full and perfect expression to our new nature.

We've been transformed—we're just not fully _____.

We have _____ sin, but no longer _____ sin.

“For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.” (Romans 6:14)

4 CHARACTERISTICS OF A NEW CREATION

#1. A new creation _____ right.

“With the Lord's authority I say this: Live no longer as the Gentiles do, for they are hopelessly confused. Their minds are full of darkness; they wander far from the life God gives because they have closed their minds and hardened their hearts against him.” (Ephesians 4:17-18)

Paul points out the problem with the way lost people _____.

futility = *mataiotes* =

Apart from _____, all our thinking is _____ and futile.

“Vanity, vanity, all is vanity.” (Ecclesiastes 1:2)

Vanity = vapour = something that amounts to nothing, has no _____, and quickly _____.

“Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments; for this is the whole duty of man.” (Ecclesiastes 12:13)

The old self's understanding was _____ because we were _____ from God—we were ignorant because our hearts were blind to the truth of His _____.

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge.” (Proverbs 1:7)

_____ only comes from a right _____ with God through Christ.

#2. A new creation _____ right.

“They have no sense of shame. They live for lustful pleasure and eagerly practice every kind of impurity.” (Ephesians 4:19)

God has blessed us with a _____—with a sense of right and wrong.

When we willingly and knowingly commit a sin, we have two options.

- We can seek the Lord's face in _____ by agreeing with Him that it's sin; and _____ of that sin by turning from it and turning toward _____.
- We can _____ that sin. This might quiet our conscience for a while, but pretty soon, we can get like Paul describes—we become _____ to it so that we can't hear our conscience anymore.

“If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:8-9)

As a new creation, we still _____. However, when the Holy Spirit pricks our conscience, we _____; we _____; and we _____ on those feelings.

A new creation feels the _____ of the Holy Spirit; a new creation confesses sin instead of _____ it up; a new creation _____ of sin.

#3. A new creation _____ right and _____ right.

“But that isn't what you learned about Christ. Since you have heard about Jesus and have learned the truth that comes from him, throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception. Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes. Put on your new nature, created to be like God—truly righteous and holy” (Ephesians 4:20-24)

A natural by-product of salvation is _____.

“If you love me, keep my commandments.” (John 14:15)

When Jesus saves us and we learn to live like Him, we take off the old coat—the _____ of our old nature—we quit acting like the old self—and we _____ ourselves with our new nature—with righteousness.

“There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.” (Romans 8:1)

#4. A new creation lives a _____ life.

5 TRANSFORMATIONS CHRIST BRINGS THE BELIEVER

- **From _____ lips to a _____ tongue.**

“So stop telling lies. Let us tell our neighbours the truth, for we are all parts of the same body.” (Ephesians 4:25)

- **From _____ to _____ anger.**

“And don't sin by letting anger control you. Don't let the sun go down while you are still angry, for anger gives a foothold to the devil.” (Ephesians 4:26-27)

“People with understanding control their anger; a hot temper shows great foolishness.” (Proverbs 14:29)

- **From _____ to _____.**

“If you are a thief, quit stealing. Instead, use your hands for good hard work, and then give generously to others in need.” (Ephesians 4:28)

- **From _____ words to _____ words.**

“Don't use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them. And do not bring sorrow to God's Holy Spirit by the way you live.” (Ephesians 4:29-30)

_____ words means thinking before we speak and asking our self:

T: Are these words _____ or _____?

H: Are they _____ or are they going to _____?

I: Are they _____—are they going to build up or tear down?

N: Are they _____? Do I need to say them?

K: Are they _____ mean-spirited?

“A word of encouragement does wonders.” (Proverbs 12:25)

- **From malicious _____ to the Master's _____.**

“Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behaviour. Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.” (Ephesians 4:31-32)

Are you living the transformed life?

Are you living like a new creation?

Have you put off the old self and clothed yourself in Jesus' righteousness? Are you a brand-new person today?