

Discover New Life In Christ

Reading: [2 Corinthians 5:16–17](#)

Introduction:

- Everybody likes new. We may not all have it, but we like it
 - From a new bicycle to a new car
 - From a new pencil to a new printer
 - From a brush to a new vacuum cleaner
 - It doesn't really matter what it is, we like new things.
- Today we discover New Life In Christ

1. In Christ there is New Thinking

[Ephesians 4:22–24](#) that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and **be renewed in the spirit of your mind**, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

- One example of new thinking is how Jews had to stop thinking about salvation through circumcision.
 - For a Jew that was near impossible
 - They were dumbfounded when Peter went and talked to Cornelius in Acts 10. He said

[Acts 10:28](#) "You know how **unlawful** it is for a Jewish man to keep company with or go to one of another nation. But God has shown me that I should not call any man common or unclean.

- Yet In [Galatians 2:11-14](#), Paul confronted Peter for being ashamed of eating with Gentiles when some Jews showed up
- Paul said twice in Gal. that circumcision doesn't avail anything

[Galatians 6:15](#) For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but **a new creation**.

[Galatians 5:6](#) For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but **faith working through love**.

- How do we compare? In Christ we have new thinking
 - We do not show partiality toward people because they're family, or rich, or smart or some other desirable trait
 - Jesus ate with sinners, and cared for those who were unwanted like Zacchaeus, or the woman at the well, or the woman accused of immorality, or the roman centurion, or tax collectors, or the unclean lepers.
- The faithful have faith that works through love
 - The faithful are like Him and love their enemies.
 - The faithful are not prejudiced, or exclusive
 - The faithful care and share and have compassion on those who are hurting or in need

2. In Christ there is New Being

[Romans 6:4](#) Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should **walk in newness of life**.

[2 Corinthians 5:17](#) Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is a new creation*; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

- Jesus listed a group of be-attitudes in [Matthew 5:3-11](#)
 - Be humble
 - Be sorry for sinful behavior
 - Be teachable
 - Be hungry for the right things
 - Be merciful
 - Be pure in heart
 - Be a peacemaker
 - Be persecuted for righteousness
- Those are attitudes to be because we are like Christ those are all about a new life, a new way of thinking, and a new way of being.

3. In Christ there is New Doing

[Romans 7:6](#) But now we have been delivered from the law, having died to what we were held by, so that we should **serve in the newness of the Spirit** and not *in* the oldness of the letter.

- Paul gave a few examples of changing our actions in Ephesians 4:
 - Instead of Lording over others we serve others
 - Instead of looking out for self, we look out for others-In a world that is set in the "me generation" the faithful do for others instead of self
 - Instead of stealing from others, we work hard so we may have something to give to others
 - Instead of lying we speak the truth
 - Instead of corrupt talk, we encourage people to good works
 - Instead of being angry and bitter and hateful, we are loving and kind and comforting
 - We think differently, we are different ...and so we do different

[1 Peter 4:4](#) paraphrased: The world thinks we're strange because we don't get involved in their sinful behavior

- We are different because we have new life in Christ