We spoke last week about the Bread of Presence and living our lives *Coram Deo*: in the presence of God, under the authority of God and entirely for the glory of God. That has stuck with me all week and I can’t tell you how many times I have shared it in conversations.

Under the leadership of the Holy Spirit the Lord has had us on a track over the past few months of pressing into deeper into His presence. Then Dan Mohler challenged us to become love, to reclaim who we were created to be in Christ. Today, I want to speak about living in fullness and power of the finished work of the cross, or Living as a New Creation.

1. First things first; You Must be Born Again

For those things to become a reality in our lives, we need to put “first things first”, you must be born again. In John’s third chapter as Jesus spoke with Nicodemas declaring a truth that serves as a point of priority, if you will, enabling us to begin to live this life as God’s new creation;

*John 3:3–7* Jesus answered and said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” 4 Nicodemus said to Him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?” 5 Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’

Through this experience alone we are positioned to enter and experience life as a new creation. It is not becoming religious, joining a church, doing good things, nor even believing in Jesus (remember James tells us the ‘the devils believe and tremble’), it is literally being born of the Spirit, born from above.


To live as a New Creation we must first become part of the family of God through this miraculous birth. Then, there must be an intentional development of our relationship with Christ. Many are called and few are chosen not on any personal merit or greater ability, but based upon their response to the calling. Many have an encounter with Jesus but never follow on to know the Lord in relationship. Salvation is an entrance into this live, old things pass away and all things become new as we learn to abide “in Christ.”

The phrase “in Christ’ which appears 351 x’s in the NT. The best for us to understand this concept is to begin with the metaphor Jesus used in John 15.

*John 15:1–8* “I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. 2 Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear...
more fruit. ³ You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. ⁵ “I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. ⁶ If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. ⁷ If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. ⁸ By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

This passage speaks of the relationship the Father desires between Jesus and our selves. He is the source of life and as we remain “in Him” this new creation becomes fruitful, as God has designed. As gentiles, we have been grafted into Christ by faith and now abide in vital union with Him.

3. Surrender and Embrace the Cross

In Galatians, Paul discloses something very powerful about this new connection with Jesus. As we abide in His life and we must also embrace His crucifixion. We are to become the dwelling place of God and the very life we have lived is no longer our own.

**Galatians 2:20** I have been crucified with Christ; 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 gave Himself for me.

We receive Christ by faith and are born again from above; as we embracing the truth of the crucified life we can begin to see how the “old things” can pass away and all things can become new.

**Colossians 3:1–3** If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. ² Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. ³ For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

Old things passing away and all things becoming new, is conditional. “If” we are risen with Christ then everything about our lives will reveal it. Some of us spend far to much time digging in the graveyards of our past instead of pressing into the fruitful life of abiding in Jesus. The reality of the new birth and resurrection life will be exposed by our habits, what captures our attention, where we focus our affections and where we invest our time, resources, and energy.

If we truly are “in” Him we no longer process life through the paradigm of the old, unregenerate, fallen man. We will begin to live “Coram Deo.” If we have died (to ourselves) and our lives are hidden with Christ in God, then we no longer live in defeat, frustration, anxiety and fear. (Perhaps I am more alive to the “old man” than I care to admit?)

Living as a new creation means there will be nothing or no one who can offend us. We can be free at last from insecurity, irritability, selfishness and pride. Dead men are not easily offended. They
could really care less if they are esteemed and praised or spoken evil of. (We are not quite there yet are we?)

We gain access to this powerful union, this position of being “in” Christ through, true repentance and grace, through faith. By faith we are united to Him through the sufferings of His cross and the power of His resurrection. To be “in Christ” is to believe on Him, be united with Him and be fully identified with Him. Paul went on to say to the church at Colossae,

**Colossians 3:4** *When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.*

When Christ becomes our life, when we press into intimacy with Him through abiding in His presence we begin to know the reality of what it means to live as a new creation.

### 4. A New and Living Way; the Way of Love

For us to live in the confidence of this new reality we need a deeper understanding of the New Covenant and the relationship made possible for us through the atonement of Jesus blood. Jesus’ death on the cross answered once and for all the claims of a righteous and Holy God against the race of fallen men. A new way of access has been opened for us into the presence of God.

**Hebrews 10:19–20** *Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, 20 by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh,*

We are no longer live under a system of rules, ordinances and religious requirements, but we have been invited to the table, into relationship with our Father. Old things have passed away, and all things have become new.

This speaks of far more than just the life of an individual believer. Its speaks to the passing away of the old covenant of law and sacrifice, and opens before us the New Covenant of love, mercy and relationship through grace. We are now free to live without fear and condemnation.

**Romans 8:1–2** *There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.*  
*2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.*

If we are “in” Christ, we are free from the law of sin and death. We now live under the law of Spirit of life and we are secure in His love. We have been set free in Christ to become exactly who He has called us to be, living without fear and condemnation, even when we fail. Living as a new creation means we are free from the threat and fear of punishment because we are now living in the love of God.

The key to this freedom of living “in” Christ is found in 1 John 4:16.
1 John 4:16–18 And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him. 17 Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world. 18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.

We have known and believed the love that God has for us. In the life of a new creation love has overcome fear and in that love, freedom is found to live with confidence and boldness in the grace and abundance God has provided for us in Christ.

The reason so many believers struggle to live in the freedom of the new creation is they fail to see themselves as forgiven and secure in the love of God. We profess to be saved by grace through faith not of our won works, then live under the pressure to perform and work hard to be good enough for God to accept us.

When we fail (and we do fail), fear begins to rise within our hearts and we are overwhelmed by the unreachable standard of holiness and the weight of our own inability to achieve and maintain it. Our fear causes us to lose sight of the Father’s loving face and attempt to live under the demands of the law.

Rather than surrender to condemnation, we need to fully identify ourselves with the finished work of Christ on the cross. We can rest in the provision of His sacrifice and the abundance of His grace, knowing that we have been made free from penalty and the power of sin. The old man of flesh, our unregenerate self has been crucified and as the new creation of God, we are now set free to live in the fullness of His favor and love.

5. Alive in Christ, Free from Sin

I want to go to Romans 6 to share the powerful truth Paul reveals to us of the new creation.

Romans 6:1–7 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? 2 Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? 3 Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? 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. 5 For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, 6 knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. 7 For he who has died has been freed from sin.

The old man of sin has been nailed to the cross and the new man, the new creation is set free to live without fear, condemnation or regret! Once we understand the penalty and the power of sin has been conquered, we can begin to live joyfully in the power of an endless life.

Romans 6:8–11 Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, 9 knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over
Him. For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

6. The Purpose of It All: Reconciliation

As I bring this to a close lets look back to our text where we will see what I believe is the purpose of the entire exercise of redemption and restoration; it is reconciliation.

Webster defines reconcile as: to restore to friendship or harmony; to settle or resolve differences; to make consistent or congruous The word Paul used in the Greek is kattalasso which means: to restore someone to favorable to friendly relations with another after a presumed wrong.

2 Corinthians 5:17–20 (AMP) Therefore if any person is [ingrafted] in Christ (the Messiah) he is a new creation (a new creature altogether); the old [previous moral and spiritual condition] has passed away. Behold, the fresh and new has come! But all things are from God, Who through Jesus Christ reconciled us to Himself [received us into favor, brought us into harmony with Himself] and gave to us the ministry of reconciliation [that by word and deed we might aim to bring others into harmony with Him]. It was God [personally present] in Christ, reconciling and restoring the world to favor with Himself; not counting up and holding against [men] their trespasses [but cancelling them], and committing to us the message of reconciliation (of the restoration to favor). So we are Christ’s ambassadors, God making His appeal as it were through us. We [as Christ’s personal representatives] beg you for His sake to lay hold of the divine favor [now offered you] and be reconciled to God.

Reconciliation is the divine act by which, on the basis of the death of Christ, God’s holy displeasure against sinful man was appeased, the enmity between God and man was removed, and man was restored to proper relations with God. Reconciliation is not some polite ignoring or reduction of hostility but rather its total and complete removal.

Our God has restored us to His divine favor and love by satisfying the claims of justice against us and accepting the blood of Christ as payment for our sins. We have been reconciled to love through the sacrifice of His Son, so now we are to reconcile others to Him though the love of Christ.

There is a great illustration of what this truth looks like in the little letter Paul wrote to his friend Philemon. Philemon’s slave, Onesimus, stole from his master and then fled to Rome. Because of his crimes, he could have been crucified. But in the providence of God, Onesimus met Paul and was converted. Paul wrote the Letter to Philemon to encourage his friend to forgive Onesimus and receive him again into his household.

Philemon 17–18 If then you count me as a partner, receive him as you would me. 18 But if he has wronged you or owes anything, put that on my account.

Paul was willing to pay the bill so that Onesimus and Philemon could be reconciled.

Jesus paid the bill for us and reconciled us to the Father. Now we are ambassadors with a message. God has committed to us the ministry and the word of reconciliation.

Living as a New Creation means our lives are to be a continual testimony of the good news of Christ’s salvation and God’s love toward man. We are called to be ambassadors of that love in our city and to our world.

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