**What is the Christian Life?**

**II Corinthians 5:14-21**

**Intro:**

**1. The Christian life is the Lord Jesus living His post resurrection life in & through you!**

**2. ν17 - Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!**

**3. There are 2 words in the NT translated "new".**

1. **New (νέος) = new in relationship to time.**
2. **New (καινός) = new in relationship to substance; a different kind or type than the previous.**
3. **The word here is "a different kind". ILL: Transformation into a Butterfly.**

**4. The Christian life is not only new, it's a different type of new!**

I. ν17 - It's a New Creation

**A. How can you be a new creation?**

1. **By being born again! Jn 3:3 - I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.**
2. **This birth takes place "of water & the Spirit". (Jn 3:5)**
3. **The father's role in the birth process is played by the Holy Spirit who uses primarily the written word of God. Jam 1:18 - He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of first fruits of all he created.**
4. **The mother's womb is played by the baptismal pool. Tit 3:5 - He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit.**
5. **Your baptism pictures this new life beginning as you die to the old life, bury the old corpse to rise again into a new life. (Rom 6:4)**

**B. How can you continue as a different kind of creature?**

1. **When you become a Christian you become a member of God's family & get encouragement from others. That's what the church is all about! (I Jn 1:7)**
2. **As a Christian you have inherited God's Holy Spirit as an internal witness & a seal of your relationship to Him (Rom 8:16 & Eph 4:30).**
3. **SO - as new spiritual babies, crave spiritual food the same way a baby craves milk (I Pet 2:2).**

II. ν15 - It's a New Motivation

**A. What are these new motivations?**

1. **ν15 - You are to live for Christ - not for yourself.**
2. **You are to seek the heavenly lifestyle. Col 3:2-3 - Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.**

**3. There are a couple of promises that accompany this motive:**

1. **I Pet 5:7 - Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.**
2. **Rom 8:28 - And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.**

**4. Matt 6 tells us that if you focus on serving God you don't need to be especially concerned about the necessities of life because God will provide those!**

1. **ILL: Sparrows & lilies (Matt 6:28-30).**
2. **ν33 - But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.**

**Β. Where does this new motivation come from?**

**1. Gal 2:20 - I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. This means Lord Jesus actually lives His post resurrection life in you!**

1. **He lives in you - He talks through you - He conducts His life through you - His motives become your motives - His purposes yours.**
2. **You need to surrender your will to His will so that His desires can be exhibited through you.**

**2. You do this by going to the word!**

1. **You need to know how Jesus felt; what His attitudes were; how He conducted Himself.**
2. **Then take up your cross & imitate His royal example!**

III. ν20 - It's a New Relationship to Others

**A. You are an ambassador - a representative of Lord Jesus.**

1. **As ambassadors your mission is to reconcile others to God. (v18)**
2. **Reconcile (καταλλάσσω) = exchange value for value as in exchanging coins; what the money changers did.**
3. **Lord Jesus put it this way, Come, follow me and I will make you fishers of men.- Matt 4:19**

**Β. How will people know you are an ambassador?**

1. **Jn 13:35 - By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.**
2. **I Jn 3:14 - We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love our brothers.**

**C. You must yield to the Lord's Holy Spirit to have Him effectively minister through you!**

1. **The Lord wants to comfort lonely hearts.**
2. **The Lord wants to instruct & teach those hungering & thirsting after righteousness.**
3. **The Lord wants to seek & to save the lost.**
4. **The Lord wants to walk among men & tell them of His love.**
5. **The Lord wants to, again, present His personal message about the greatest sacrifice ever made for them.**
6. **The Lord wants to live & work through you to do all these things!**

**Your responsibility now is to let
Lord Jesus live within you to
reconcile the world to**

**Him!**

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