

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. v17 - **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".
 - a. **New** (νέος) = new in relationship to time.
 - b. **New** (καινός) = new in relationship to substance; a different kind or type than the previous.
 - c. 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. v17 - 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**)
 - a. 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.**
 - b. 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.**
 - c. 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. v15 - It's a New Motivation

A. What are these new motivations?

1. **v15 - 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:
 - a. **I Pet 5:7 - Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.**
 - b. **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!
 - a. **ILL: Sparrows & lilies (Matt 6:28-30).**
 - b. **v33 - But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.**

B. 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!
 - a. He lives in you - He talks through you - He conducts His life through you - His motives become your motives - His purposes yours.
 - b. 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!
 - a. You need to know how Jesus felt; what His attitudes were; how He conducted Himself.
 - b. Then take up your cross & imitate His royal example!

III. v20 - 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**

B. 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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