

2 Corinthians 5:17 – A new creation, a new year – A new focus and attitude.

Now, let's dig into our passage and let's see about this new creation. What is it to be a new creation?

- I. Paul pulls a direct contrast between the old and the New
 - a. The old way deals with being under bondage of the law
 - i. This is the works of the flesh – **Romans 7:5¹**
 - ii. This working is what was put to death on the cross – **Romans 6:6**
 - b. The old way is the working of the flesh
 - i. Paul shows us what the works of the flesh is and what not to have or do!
 - ii. **1 Corinthians 6:9-10**
 - iii. **Galatians 5:19-21**
 - c. The old way is the way that leads to death
 - i. There is a call to leave these things. A call to be renewed.
 - ii. Does this mean that we will NEVER sin again? ABSOLUTELY NOT!
 - iii. However, it should not be a chosen lifestyle, nor should it be!
 - iv. One cannot choose to ignore this calling yet call themselves serious believers.
 1. There is a casting of doubt as the individual has fruit that is contrary to the fruits that should be displayed – **Matthew 7:16, 20**
 2. There is even a doubting about the spiritual position of individual. – **Luke 6:43-45**
 - d. The results of the old man are very clear...death! – **Matthew 7:13²**
- II. Paul then draws a direct line to that which the New Creation does
 - a. Notice what Paul does – He quickly draws the comparison between the old life verses that of the new life which He is wanting his hearers and readers to follow
 - b. Controlled by the Spirit
 - i. Unlike the working of the flesh, the position of the believer should be clear – **1 Corinthians 6:11**
 - ii. Unlike being controlled by the flesh, the call is to have the fruits of the Spirit – **Galatians 5:22-23**
 1. There is a difference between the fruits of the Spirit and the gifts
 2. In a gift, we may have one or a couple but I have never seen anyone have ALL
 3. We are called to have ALL THE FRUITS! Now, how is our life matching up?

¹ **Romans 7:5** For when we were in the flesh, the sinful passions which were aroused by the law were at work in our members to bear fruit to death.

² **Matthew 7:13** "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it."

- c. Leads to life – Matthew 7:14³ – This is the Path that God wants us on. He wants to save us...but He will not force us (Notice He wanted to save Israel but did not force them – Luke 13:34)
- III. How does this correlate with us today?
- a. Some may argue that I am trying to make a plea for a works based salvation.
 - i. This is far from the truth.
 - ii. I am trying to make a James plea for our salvation – James 2:14-18
 - 1. It is not that the works justify our faith
 - 2. It is that our works allows our faith to be evident
 - 3. However, there are many Christians that do not live like they are called and deny that calling in the very manner of how they order their life.
 - b. Being a new Creation, it dictates how we are to live with each other
 - i. The Bible has very detailed ways that we are to live and work with each other
 - 1. Romans 12:9-21
 - 2. 1 Corinthians 12:12-31
 - 3. Ephesians 4:11-13
 - ii. Being a Christian is not dependent on if you go to church. That does not save us. However, being a Christian is not a lone wolf type ideology!
 - 1. We are called to a body as a unit. We are to act, function and live as such
 - 2. Those who say they don't need the church is missing the very essence of what Christianity is supposed to be!
 - 3. We need each other and that is how God demanded it.
 - 4. Those who say they can be on their own are short changing not only themselves but also others.
 - 5. Therefore we read what we do in Hebrews 10:25
 - c. Being a new Creation dictates how we live with those who are not saved
 - i. The Bible also gives us how we are to live with those who are not saved – Colossians 4:5-6⁴
 - ii. I know, for me, I sometimes want to argue and fight. However, that wins...little to no one.
 - iii. What does win the unbeliever is not only the way we handle each other but how we handle unbelievers.

³ Matthew 7:14 Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.

⁴ Colossians 4:5-6 Walk in wisdom toward those *who are* outside, redeeming the time. (6) Let your speech always *be* with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.

- d. Being a new creation dictates how we order our lives Spiritually
 - i. I pray, dear God, I pray we start to exhibit this in our life! Study these things out and let us start to allow the Holy Spirit to prune and change our life so we can reflect these things!
 - ii. Lo and Behold – **Hebrews 12:14**
- e. Being a new creation dictates how we exist and why we exist in this world.
 - i. The New Testament, which is built upon the O.T. has a basis that is not new. – **Isaiah 1:16⁵**
 - ii. I have started reading a book about the Pilgrims and Puritans. They may not have had everything right...but their entire life (how they worked, how they lived, how they related) was all formed and built upon their Theology.
 - iii. Can we say the same thing about us or is our way of life built upon our culture – **Romans 12:1-2**

⁵ **Isaiah 1:16** "Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean; Put away the evil of your doings from before My eyes. Cease to do evil,