**The New Birth > A New Creation**

***II Corinthians 5:17 & I Corinthians 6:9-11***

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*January 9, 2022 a.m.*

Introduction: In the newest edition of the WHBC Messenger, I have a condensed message entitled: “New things for the New Year.” The text is II Corinthians 5:17, *“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature* (creation)*: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”* I point out 3 new things suggested by this verse: the new birth, the new life, & the new song. I want to examine each of these things individually, starting this morning with the new birth (our conversion), tonight with the new life (our conversation), & then next Sunday morning with the new song (our consecration). I want us to go now to I Corinthians 6:9-11 where we find the characteristics of the unrighteous & the cleansing of the unrighteous. Let’s read the text & then pray…

 I. The **characteristics** of the unrighteous

 A. Their description:

 1. *“Fornicators”* – *“pornos”* from which comes “pornography” – here it refers to sexual

 immorality, particularly that before marriage.

 2. *“Idolaters”* – those who worship any false god or in a false religious system (often associated

 with immorality > temple “prostitutes” whether male or female).

 3. *“Adulterers”* – sexual immorality outside the marriage bonds (see Hebrews 13:4).

 Application: How are we preparing the next generation to live in this sexual promiscuous &

 immoral world? Let me suggest 3 things we, particular as parents & grandparents, should do:

 (1) Prayer – daily for our young people to be pure & clean for their future mate & their mate to

 be pure & clean for them (& especially while dating). Are you doing that now?

 (2) Precept – teaching them what the Bible clearly teaches concerning sexuality.

 (3) Practice – modeling before them the proper relationship between husband & wife.

 4. *“Effeminate”* – “passive homosexuality” or those showing its characteristics & tendencies.

 5. *“Abusers of themselves with mankind”* – “active homosexuality” or those sometimes referred

 to as “Sodomites” (see Genesis 18:20; 19:4-5 & see Romans 1:26-27).

 Illustrate: Log Cabin Republicans? “Log Cabin Christians”?

 6. *“Thieves”* – those who actually steal.

 7. *“Covetous”* – those who may not actually steal, but covet or envy what others have.

 8. *“Drunkards”* – those who continually give themselves to intoxication.

 9. *“Revilers”* – those who are verbally abusive; trouble-makers.

 10. *“Extortioners”* – those who swindle & embezzle; take advantage of others; violent.

 B. Their destiny:

 1. Declared > *“shall not inherit the kingdom of God”* (2 times).

 2. Defined > “People who are characterized by these iniquities are not saved. While believers

 can & do commit these sins, they do not characterize them as an unbroken life pattern. When

 they do, it demonstrates that the person is not in God’s Kingdom” (MacArthur).

 Note I John 3:8-10 which gives us only 2 categories of people in the world (& cf. I Jn. 5:12).

 Those saved exhibit righteous character; those unsaved exhibit continual & unrepentant, sinful

 character. Redpath concludes, “It is impossible to live like the devil’s children & hope to go to

 heaven with God’s children.”

 Summary: So how do we “inherit” the kingdom of God? An inheritance comes not by works, but by

 birth – *“Ye must be born again”* (John 3:5 & see John 14:6). There is hope for the sinner > speaking

 the truth in love.

 II. The **cleansing** of the unrighteous – *“And such were some of you…”*

 A. *“But ye are washed”* > saved from sin’s **pollution**.

 1. Defined – a spiritual cleansing & regeneration.

 2. Declared in Scripture – Titus 3:5; Revelation 1:5; & Psalm 51:7 (cf. Isaiah 1:18).

 3. Demonstrated by song – “Nothing But the Blood” (“What can wash away my sin?”).

 B. *“But ye are sanctified”* > saved from sin’s **power**.

 1. Biblical definition – to “sanctify” means to “set apart.” It carries the idea of being dedicated to

 the service of God. “Where the reference is to *things*, the meaning of *‘holy’* or *‘sanctified’* is,

 simply, set apart for the use of God, or rendered sacred by the divine presence” (Scofield’s

 note on I Peter 1:18).

 2. Biblical demonstration – being *‘washed”* – “results in new behavior, which a transformed life

 always produces. Sin’s total domination is broken & replace by a new pattern of obedience &

 holiness” (MacArthur). See Romans 8:12 (& contrast John 8:34).

 Summary: This does not speak of perfection but rather a new direction (see Romans 6:17-18, 22).

 [Remember the bumper sticker: “I’m not perfect, just forgiven”?]

 C. *“But ye are justified”* > saved from sin’s **penalty**.

 1. Theological definition – “the act by which a sinner is freed through faith from the penalty of

 sin & is accepted by God as righteous.” It indicates to pronounce or declare righteous & it

 includes the forgiveness of sin & the imputation (reckoning to one’s account) of righteousness

 (see II Corinthians 5:19 & 21).

 2. Practical demonstration – having been declared “righteous” at salvation, we should live in

 practice according to our profession. Consider Titus 2:11-12, *“For the grace of God, that*

 *bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness & worldly*

 *lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, & godly, in this present world.”*

Conclusion: Have you been washed? Have you been sanctified? Have you been justified? It is only possible *“in the name of the Lord Jesus, & by the Spirit of our God.”* Romans 10:13 declares, *“For who-soever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”* The purpose of John’s gospel is given to us in John 20:31 which says, *“But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; & that believing ye might have life through His name.”* It was Peter who preached in Acts 10:43, *“To Him give all the prophets witness, that through His name whosoever believeth in Him shall receive remission of sins.”* It is the Spirit of God that convicts us of sin & draws us to the Father. We noted earlier Titus 3:5, *“Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration, & renewing* *of the Holy Ghost.”*

 Can you say what I heard often from my pastor in N.C, “I may not be all that I ought to be, but thank God, I’m not what I used to be”? Is that your testimony here this morning?