**The New Life > A New *“Conversation”***

***II Corinthians 5:17 & Philippians 1:27; 3:20***

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Introduction: This morning we considered the first of 3 new things indicated by II Corinthians 5:17. We looked at the new birth found in I Corinthians 6:9-11. There we saw not only the characteristics of the unrighteous, but also the cleansing of the unrighteous. Tonight we come to the second new thing: the new life or a new *“conversation.”* The word *“conversation”* is found 18 times in our English N.T., the translation of 3 different Greek words. Fifteen of these references translate the same word, but all of them carry the idea of “conduct, behavior, or life-style.” I call your attention tonight first of all to Philippians 1:27, *“Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ…”* & then to 3:20, *“For our conversation is in heaven…”* These 2 verses translate the same Greek word, with the distinction of – “to live as a citizen” – specifically a citizen of heaven (3:20). The verses suggest the idea of “dual citizen-ship.” The believer is to live as a citizen of heaven (*“as it becometh the gospel of Christ”*) while still living as a citizen on earth. Such earthly citizenship is indicated by Paul’s admonition to Timothy, *“Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity”* (II Tim. 4:12). I want us to consider just 6 of the remaining references to *“conversation”* by putting them into 3 categories: Honesty, Holiness, & Humility.

 I. A new life is demonstrated by living **honestly** > I Peter 2:12, *“Having your conversation honest*

 *among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works,*

 *which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.”* (& cf. II Cor. 8:21)

 A. Parallel passages:

 1. I Peter 3:16, *“Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers,*

 *they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ”* (& cf. verse 15).

 2. James 3:13, *“Who is a wise man & endued with knowledge among you? Let him shew out of a*

 *good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom.”*

 B. Parallel principles:

 1. Law-abiding – Romans 13:1-7 (& cf. I Peter 2:13-17)

 2. Right-living – II Corinthians 7:1 (& cf. Titus 2:12).

 3. Truth-telling – Ephesians 4:15 (& cf. Galatians 4:16).

 II. A new life is demonstrated by living **holy** > I Peter 1:15, *“But as He which hath called you is holy, so*

 *be ye holy in all manner of conversation.”*

 A. In one’s talk:

 1. Ephesians 4:29, *“Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is*

 *good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.”*

 2. Colossians 3:16, *“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching &*

 *admonishing one another in psalms & hymns & spiritual songs, singing with grace in your*

 *hearts to the Lord.”* (& cf. Eph. 5:19)

 3. Colossians 4:6, *“Let you speech be alway with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know*

 *how ye ought to answer every man.”*

 Illustrate: Consider the words of Christ – Luke 4:22, *“gracious words”* & John 7:46, *“Never*

 *man spake like this man.”*

 B. In one’s walk:

 1. II Peter 3:11, *“Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons*

 *ought ye to be in all holy conversation & godliness.”*

 2. I Thessalonians 4:1, *“Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, & exhort you by the Lord*

 *Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk & to please God, so ye would*

 *abound more & more.”*

 3. I John 2:6, *“He that saith he abideth in Him ought himself also to walk, even as He walked.”*

 Illustrate: III John verse 4, *“I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.”*

 Is that your greatest joy? For your children, your grandchildren? Not just that they are suc-

 cessful, gainfully employed, or even happily married, but that they walk according to truth?

III. A new life is demonstrated by living **humbly** > I Peter 3:1-2, *“Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to*

 *your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the* (a) *word be won by the*

 *conversation of the wives; While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear.”*

 A. This speaks of humility before God (*“coupled with fear”* I Peter 3:2):

 1. Consider the context – I Peter 2:11ff – submission to government, masters, husband.

 2. Compare the command – James 4:10, *“Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, & He shall lift you up”* (one of the “Ten Commandments” of James 4:7-10).

 B. This speaks of humility before man:

 1. Wives before their husbands – I Peter 3:1-6.

 2. Believers before one another – Ephesians 5:21, *“Submitting yourselves one to another in the*

 *fear of God.”*

Conclusion: Have you been washed, sanctified, & justified? If so, are you seeking by the grace of God to live honestly, holily, & humbly? Paul exhorted the Philippians to *“work out your own salvation with fear & trembling”* (2:12). Note, he does not command them to “work for” their salvation, but rather to *“work out”* their salvation. He then tells them how it is possible to live the Christian life, *“For it is God which worketh in you both to will & to do of His good pleasure”* (2:13 & cf. 4:13). One other use of the word *“conversation”* is found in Hebrews 13:5, *“Let your conversation be without covetousness; & be content with such things as ye have: for He hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.”* Could your life be described as *“without covetousness”*? Note the closing benediction of the writer to the Hebrews in 13:20-21, *“Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, Make you perfect in every good work to do His will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever & ever. Amen.”*

 Again I ask, are you seeking to live honestly, holily, & humbly before the Lord? If not, consider the challenge of Paul in II Corinthians 13:5, *“Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith: prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?”* If Christ is in you, then you are a new creation, now able to exhibit a new *“conversation”*! How about you here tonight?