

# New Beginnings

## Creation: 2 Corinthians 4 and 5



WEST SOUND COMMUNITY CHURCH

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In referring to the new life of salvation, Mr. David Needham wrote in his book, "Birthright: Christian Do You Know Who You Are"...

"...If you have received the Savior, you simply are not the same person you were before. When you were *'in the flesh'* (Romans 8:9), life and meaning for you had to be found right there—and there alone. Your brain, your emotions, your senses, your creativity, your glands, your world environment, your relationships—this was life. It could be found nowhere else. But if you have been born again, this is not so anymore, whether you know it or not!

You may weigh the same,  
Look the same,  
Feel the same,  
But you are not the same.

That is why Jesus could look a man or woman straight in the eyes and say, *'I have come that you might have life.'* They thought they were alive. But Jesus said they were wrong. But weren't they doing everything "live" people were doing...eating, walking, loving, dreaming, planning, working? Yes. Yet, the Bible says "in him was life."

That's radical. We dare not water it down!

How could we do that?

By saying: "Yes, I know I have a new nature. Or 'God has clothed me with righteousness!'"

What you have isn't the point. It's who you are that's the issue. By saying: 'Oh, I'm just a sinner saved by grace, but I'm indwelt by the Holy Spirit'—that's watering it down. That's casting an undeserved shadow on the greatest miracle God has ever performed concerning you. Don't do it.

God has not only justified you and reconciled you. He has also birthed you. Listen to John's voice for a moment...*'How great is the love which the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!...Dear friends, now we are children of God'* (1 John 3:1-2, NIV). It is almost as though the apostle was writing along and as he came to the words *'children of God'* he paused in amazement.

Could this really be?

"Children," not by adoption, but by birth."

Did the miracle working love of God go that far? That we should be called the children of God?

Yes, emphatically, it is true.

Because John was so deeply moved by what he had just said, he adds, *'And that is what we are!'*

We dare not take the edge off of John's excitement. The Apostle Peter shared this same sense of wonder when he wrote



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that we are '*partakers sharers of his divine nature*' Paul adds, '*We are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus*' (2 Peter 1:4; Ephesians 2:10, NASB). Did God create something unclean? Is God's workmanship—his masterpiece—simply adding a little spiritual lump onto sinful clay? Listen to God's answer. '*So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!*' (2 Corinthians 5:17).

Wow! Sometimes a preacher just has to let someone else say it, because they say it so much, much better! If one has received Jesus Christ, he or she is a NEW CREATION...more than simply spiritual...he or she is a new, supernatural, born-again, new creation spirit.

So, what do we do with this. Since one is a new creation, what does it mean? In the warp and woof of life, how does this change anything?

Well, there is more found in the Bible regarding this question than we have time for, but let me share one section with you that simply lights me up! You can find it by turning on your Bible to the Apostle Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians. When you get there, open it up to chapter 4.

## 2 Corinthians 4 and 5

**First, The Problem:** This world is contrary. 4:7-9, 16-18

**Second, The Foundation:** This body is temporary. 5:1-5

**Third, The Confidence:** This soul has a destiny. 5:6-10

**Fourth, The Ministry:** This soul has a mission. 5:11-15

**Fifth: The Miracle:** This soul is new. 5:16,17

