

01 – OLD THINGS, NEW THINGS

- ✓ We're going to start a series today on our identity in Christ. This is going to be different than most of my series'. Usually, I'll take a topic and "drill down" into it (and bring out as much detail as possible). In this series, we'll do exactly the opposite. Instead of "digging deep", we're going to "step back" and look at the *big picture* of who we are in Christ.

Why Does This Matter?

- ✓ It Matters Because: How you see yourself affects everything. (I don't know if you've ever thought about that, but it's true!)

Prov. 23:7 – "As a man *thinks in his heart*, *so is he*."

Amplified – "As a man *thinks in his heart*, so is his *behavior* ..."

- ✓ Ultimately, we behave in accordance with how we see ourselves. (If I *think* I'm a loser, I'll *act* like a loser. If I *think* I'm superior to you, I'll *act* superior to you. If I *believe* I can't change, *I won't even try*.)
- ✓ We *think, act, and make decisions* based on how we see ourselves. That's why it's important that we see ourselves as God sees us, and that we build our self-image on the Word of God.

The Big Idea of the Series

- ✓ You're not who you used to be! (Who you *were* in the past, and what you've *done* in the past doesn't define you! God *changed* you.) There are at least 56 things that changed in your life (or became yours) the moment you received Christ. I want to show you what those things are.

Our Key Verse

2 Cor. 5:17 – "So then if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The *old things passed away*; behold, *all things have become new*."

- ✓ We're going to divide this series into four sections:
 - What Happened to the Old Man – ("*old things passed away*")
 - Who You Became as the New Man – ("*things have become new*")
 - Your Position and Relationships – (*in the kingdom*)
 - Your New Future – (*it's been entirely re-written*)
- ✓ Essentially, I'm going to paint you a picture of who God has made you. (What is that picture going to do for you?)

Romans 12:1 – "And be not conformed to this world: but be *transformed* by the *renewing of your mind* ..."

- ✓ As you renew your mind to these things, you'll be transformed. (As you think in your heart, so you'll be.)

Part I – Things That Happened to the Old Man

1. God Accepted Jesus' Sacrifice & Declared You "Not Guilty"

Rom. 4:25 – "He was surrendered to death because of the offenses we'd committed, and He was raised to life, *when we were declared not guilty*."

- ✓ I want you to picture this. There was a moment in the High Court of Heaven that God rendered His verdict. God accepted Jesus' sacrifice and forever declared those that would receive Christ are "not guilty". When you accepted Jesus, that "not guilty" verdict became yours.

2. Your Sin Was Washed Away – (Rev. 1:5)

- ✓ The word "washed" is significant. It describes what Jesus' blood actually did in your life. (To fully understand this, I'll have to introduce you to another word.)
- ✓ Atonement – The word "atonement" is an Old Testament word that meant "to cover". It's like if I had a spot in my coat. I could take my hand and "cover" the spot, and you couldn't see it. But the spot would still be in the coat. That's what the blood of bulls and goats

did. It merely *covered* sin. (And you had to do that annually.) Jesus' blood, on the other hand, didn't just cover sin. It literally *washed it away*. It completely *removed* it!

Ps. 103:12 – “He has removed our sins as far away from us as the east is from the west.”

- ✓ It's significant how that's phrased. Had he said, “As far as the North is from the South ...”, that wouldn't be the same thing. If you start heading North (and circle the globe), you'll eventually go over the North Pole. If you continue travelling, you'll go around the pole and start heading South. (There's a point where North met South.)
- ✓ It's not that way with East and West. If you start heading East, it doesn't matter how many times you circle the globe, you'll still be travelling East. East and West never meet. Jesus removed your sin so far from you, that you'll never see it again! It's gone forever!

3. Condemnation Passed From You – (Rom. 8:1, 33)

- ✓ If Jesus washed your sin away, and God declared you “not guilty”, how could there possibly be anything to condemn you for?

4. You Passed From Death Unto Life – (John 5:24)

- ✓ Picture two rooms: One was full of death; one is full of life. You changed rooms.

5. You Walked Out of the Slave Market – (Rev. 5:9)

- ✓ That's what the word “redeemed” means. “Purchased out of the slave market.” Sin held you captive, but Jesus redeemed you. He bought you out of that slave market and gave you your freedom.

6. You Came Out from Under the Curse of the Law – (Gal. 3:13)

- ✓ The curse that had come on you because of the broken Law was three-fold: Poverty, Sickness and Spiritual Death. That would have

been your future – “but God”.

Part II – Who Did You Become As the New Man?

7. You Became a New Creature – (2 Cor. 5:17) – (species)

8. You Received Eternal Life

- ✓ When we talk about “eternal” life, we're not just talking about “existing forever”. (The truth is EVERY human being will exist forever. Some will exist forever with God in the New Jerusalem, and some will exist forever, separated from God in the Lake of Fire.)
- ✓ When the Bible talks about “eternal life”, it's not just referring to a LENGTH of life. It's referring to a QUALITY of life. Eternal life is life as God has it. The Bible calls it “Zoe”, or literally, the very life of God.

John 5:26 – “As the Father has ZOE in Himself, He gave the Son to have ZOE in Himself.”

John 10:10 – “I am come that you might have ZOE ...”

- ✓ In salvation, Jesus imparts to us the very life of God.

9. You Received a New Heart – (Ezk. 36:26)

- ✓ Other translations say: “I will take out your stony hearts of sin and give you a new heart of love.” (TLB), “I'll take out the stubborn heart, and give you an obedient heart.” (NCV)
- ✓ You have a new heart, with new desires! The things you once loved, you now hate. The things you once hated, you now love. (For me, it was radio preachers. I used to turn them off as quickly as I could. After I was saved, I'd listen for two or three hours every night.)

10. You Received a New Nature – (2 Peter 1:4)

- ✓ That's not saying that *you're* Divine. You're not God, and you'll

never *be* God. But, as His child, you have a nature like His. (You could take a pig out of the pigpen. Give him a bath, spray him with cologne, and tie a ribbon around him. But when you turn him loose, he's going right back to the mud puddle, because his nature hasn't changed. But *yours* has!)

11. You Were Darkness; You Became Light

Eph. 5:8 – “Once your life was full of darkness, but now you have the very light of Christ shining through you ...” (Phil. 2:14)

12. You Became Acceptable to God

*Eph. 1:6 – “To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us **accepted** in the beloved.”*

- ✓ The “Beloved” is Christ. You’re accepted in Christ. Here’s a revelation: If you’re accept-ed, God must consider you to be accept-able. Say that a few times to yourself. “Because of Jesus, I’m acceptable to God.”

13. God Made You Worthy – (Col. 1:12)

- ✓ I hear so many Christians saying, “I’m so unworthy!” The truth is ... you WERE unworthy. (You didn’t deserve *anything* that God did for you, at the time He did it. But the good news is, He did it anyway, and in the process, according to this Scripture, He made you worthy!) You used to be unworthy, but not anymore. He made you worthy to stand in His presence and worthy to receive the inheritance!

14. You Became Complete – (Col. 2:10)

15. God Sees You as a Work of Art – (Eph. 2:10)

- ✓ The Greek word is “poiema” (where we get the English word “poem”). It has three shades of meaning. a.) A special creation from the heart; b.) An expression of the artist, himself; c.) A masterpiece. God sees you as all of those things.