

FTL Class 7: The Reality of a New Creature

Key Scriptures:

- **2 Corinthians 5:17** "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new..."
- **Philippians 2:13** "For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure..."
- **Romans 6:11-14** "Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God. For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace..."
- **Romans 8:1-9** "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his..."

A Few Important Statements:

- "You might be discouraged at this time in your life because you realize you have very little of the character of Jesus...you don't have a good knowledge...self-control...or endurance..."
- "The main enemy working against you is that you have within you a sinful nature that desires sinful things..."
- "Everyone does..."
- "When you were saved, Jesus immediately started doing a new thing in you..."
- "The old desires of your sinful nature are still there...but something else is going on inside you..."

- “The solution to overcoming life-dominating sins like addictions and habitual behaviors is to become a different person...”
- “We do what we do because we are what we are. To change what we do, we must cooperate with God to change what we are...”

Three Questions:

- **Question 1: What happens in us when we become a Christian?**
 - **We have a new nature: 2 Corinthians 5:17** “He is a new creature...”
 - **We have a new relationship to the Spirit: Romans 8:18** “Ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his...”
 - **We have a new master: Romans 6:14** “Sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace...”
 - **We experience a new struggle: Romans 6:11-14** “Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God...”
 - **We have a new enabling in the inner man: Philippians 2:13** “For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure...”
 - **We have new direction: 2 Corinthians 5:17** “Old things are passed away, all things are become new...”
- **Question 2: Why does understanding this truth matter so much?**
 - **Encouragement:**
 - We can make progress.
 - We can grow.
 - We can change.
 - **Reality:**
 - We will experience a struggle.
 - The growth and change will be incremental and take time.
 - **Perspective:** Optimistic yet also realistic
 - We can do this.
 - We must do this.
- **Question 3: What is the first and most basic thing I must supplement into my Christian life?**
 - **Virtue:** “Moral excellence”
 - **Our Definition:** “Adding virtue means being committed to developing and displaying the character of Jesus Christ...”