CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

CREATION

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Read 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NKJV)

NEW

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Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

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What is this New Creation? It's a divinely transformed life that has 4 things:

a) It is a God Initiated New Creation

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation..." Therefore new creation is a supernatural work of God... you didn't create yourself. You couldn't have created yourself... Only God can make a new masterpiece out of you! And He did it through grace.. none of your effort,.... it's totally and completely by Him. **CGQs:** What do you see when you look at yourself in the mirror each morning? New creation in Christ or same old, unchanged, unredeemed, unsaved self? Why is this important? What you see is what you get!

b) It is a "Deep" New Creation:

"If anyone is IN CHRIST.." Immersed in Christ! This is not a superficial change like a nose job or a hair transplant; it is something very deep in our spirit.

c) It is Christ-Filled New Creation

IN Christ. What does it mean? It means saved 100% by grace alone, undeserving, unmerited, unearned by us... IN CHRIST. He hung on the cross to take away your sins and mine my friends...to take away the wrath of God. How deep? God was IN CHRIST reconciling the world to Himself! (v 19) meaning the person who was wronged chases after the one who did wrong to reconcile. That's what God did in Christ to you and me.

CGQs: IN Christ means Christ taking our place and suffering God's wrath, His judgement and punishment and we receiving God's forgiveness. Do you see this picture of God the Father running after you to bring about reconciliation? What does it do to your understanding of grace and unconditional love?

d) It is a "Brand-New" New Creation

"The old has passed away" and Behold! The New has come "New" here means new of a different kind! No longer like our old self!

 i) What old things have passed away?
Reliance on our self-righteousness and achievements, our old habits and attitudes

ii) What new thing has come?

Total reliance on Christ's righteousness. # "Nothing in my hands I bring, simply to the cross I cling. Naked come to thee for dress. Sinners come to thee for rest. Foul I to the fountain fly. Wash me saviour or I die! We have crossed that line never to return. # Story of Plimsoll line on ships saved 1000's of lives.

CGQs: Share what's "new" and what was "old" about your life? Share about things that have changed inside your heart as well as outer conduct change. What made the difference? When did you notice it? Anyone else noticed?