

# LIVING FROM THE NEW NATURE

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*Philippians 2:6–9 KJVS • Christ's Nature, Our Identity, and the Fruit That Follows*

## Lesson Objective

To understand that Christlike living is not primarily an attempt to manufacture Christlike behavior through human effort. In Christ, we have received a new identity and a new nature. The goal is to renew our minds to who we are in Him and then live from what God has already given us.

## Main Theme

It's the root that supplies the fruit. A tree does not struggle to produce fruit that is consistent with its nature. Likewise, the believer is called to live from the new nature received in Christ—not continually struggle to become something God has already made us in Christ.

### 1. Christ Showed Us the Pattern: Humility and Obedience

- Philippians 2:6–9 begins with Jesus' identity: He was in the form of God and equal with God.
- Yet He humbled Himself, took the form of a servant, became a man, and became obedient—even unto the death of the cross.
- His actions flowed from who He was and from His union with the Father. His obedience was not an attempt to establish His identity; it expressed His identity.
- God then highly exalted Him and gave Him a name above every name.

#### Small Group Questions

A. Expository: What does Philippians 2:6–9 reveal about who Jesus was before He humbled Himself, what He chose to do, and what resulted from His obedience? How does His identity shape our understanding of His humility?

B. Personal Application: Where might you be tempted to prove your worth or identity through your performance? How could remembering who you are in Christ change the way you approach obedience?

### 2. The Fruit Reveals the Root

- Jesus teaches in Luke 6 that a good tree produces good fruit and that a tree is known by its fruit.
- The issue is not merely external behavior. Jesus goes to the heart: “of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.”
- The question is therefore not simply, “What am I doing?” but, “What am I identifying with?”
- The fish illustration: a fish does not merely try to live in water; water is the environment consistent with its nature. In the same way, the believer is called to live from the new nature God has given.

#### Small Group Questions

A. Expository: According to Luke 6:43–47, how does Jesus connect the condition of the tree, the fruit it produces, and the contents of the heart? What does this teach us about the source of our outward behavior?

B. Personal Application: When your words or actions reveal something inconsistent with the character of Christ, are you more likely to focus on changing the behavior or examining what is happening in your heart? What would it look like to address the root rather than merely the fruit?

## LIVING FROM THE NEW NATURE

Identity Before Activity • Being Before Becoming

### 3. Be in Christ: This Is Being, Not Becoming

- 2 Corinthians 5:17 declares that anyone who is in Christ is a new creature. The old things have passed away; all things have become new.
- The emphasis is on what has already happened in Christ. We are not trying to persuade God to give us a new identity—we are learning to live from the identity He has already given.

- 2 Peter 1:3 says His divine power has given us “all things that pertain unto life and godliness.”
- The incarnate God was in Christ; now Christ is in us. The believer’s life is therefore to flow from union with Christ.

#### **Small Group Questions**

- A. Expository: What does 2 Corinthians 5:17 actually say has happened to the person who is “in Christ”? How does 2 Peter 1:3 reinforce the idea that God has already provided what is necessary for life and godliness?
- B. Personal Application: Are there areas of your life where you are still thinking, “I need to become something God has already declared me to be”? What would change if you began living from the identity God has already given you?

### **4. The Trap: Trying to Produce Spirit-Led Living From the Old Nature**

- The struggle can sound like: “I love Jesus. I want to do what is right. So why do I keep doing what I do not want to do?”
- Romans 7:19 describes this conflict. The problem is not that we do not care about obedience; the problem is attempting to live out the new life from the wrong source.
- When obedience becomes merely “my obedience,” it can become will worship—human effort trying to accomplish spiritually what God has already provided by grace.
- The enemy’s deception is to keep us trying to obtain what we already possess in Christ.
- Instead of asking, “How can I make myself love, forgive, have peace, or exercise self-control?” ask, “What has God already placed in my new nature, and how do I live from it?”

#### **Small Group Questions**

- A. Expository: What conflict does Paul describe in Romans 7:19? What does this verse reveal about the difference between wanting to do what is right and actually being able to produce it through human effort?
- B. Personal Application: What is one area where you repeatedly find yourself “trying harder” but continue experiencing the same struggle? How might your approach change if you began by identifying what God has already provided in Christ?

### **5. The Nature of the Spirit Produces the Fruit of the Spirit**

- Galatians 5:22–23 identifies the fruit produced by the Spirit: love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance.
- These qualities are not merely behaviors to imitate. They describe the fruit that flows from the Spirit’s work and presence in the believer.
- Jesus naturally displayed the Father’s nature. He said, “I and my Father are one,” and told Philip, “he that hath seen me hath seen the Father.”
- Likewise, our union with Christ changes the source from which we live: “he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit.”
- Therefore: I am not merely trying to love—I am learning to live from the love of God in me. I am not merely trying to forgive—I am learning to live from the new nature that has been given to me.

#### **Small Group Questions**

- A. Expository: What does Galatians 5:22–23 call the qualities listed in these verses, and who is identified as their source? How do John 10:30, John 14:9, and 1 Corinthians 6:17 help us understand the connection between Christ, the Father, the Spirit, and the believer?
- B. Personal Application: Which fruit of the Spirit is most challenging for you to express consistently? Instead of simply trying harder to produce that fruit, what would it mean to consciously yield to and live from the Spirit’s nature within you?

### **6. The Root of Jesse: Identify the Source**

- The teaching points us back to the source. Just as fruit is connected to its root, our outward life should flow from our identity and union with Christ.
- The practical question is: What am I identifying with?
- Before reacting to a situation, ask:
- Am I identifying with my old nature or my new nature?
- Am I responding from fear or from faith?
- Am I responding from offense or from love?
- Am I responding from what I feel or from what God says is true about me?

- Am I trying to produce something through human effort that God has already provided in Christ?

### Small Group Questions

- A. Expository: How does the “root and fruit” illustration help explain the relationship between our identity in Christ and our outward behavior? Why is identifying the source important before attempting to change the fruit?
- B. Personal Application: Think of a recent situation in which your response was not consistent with the character of Christ. What were you identifying with in that moment, and how could identifying with your new nature have changed your response?

## LIVING FROM THE NEW NATURE

Renewing the Mind • Four Movements Toward Victory

### 7. Four Things That Help Us Renew Our Minds

#### 1. IDENTIFY

Recognize the source. Identify whether your perspective is coming from the natural/old way of thinking or from your identity in Christ.

**Ask:** “What am I identifying with?”

#### 2. INTERPRET

Interpret the situation through what God says is true about you in Christ—not merely through your feelings, circumstances, past behavior, or natural perspective.

**Ask:** “What does God say is true?”

#### 3. IGNORE

Refuse to give the old nature, old patterns, or contrary thoughts the authority to define who you are. Do not keep trying to obtain what God has already given.

**Ask:** “Does this thought agree with who God says I am?”

#### 4. INITIATE

Execute from the new identity. Put the truth into action. Love. Forgive. Obey. Speak. Respond. Do it from the nature you have received in Christ.

**Ask:** “How should I respond if I am living from who I am in Christ?”

### Small Group Questions

- A. Expository: How do the four movements—Identify, Interpret, Ignore, and Initiate—provide a practical process for renewing the mind? How does each movement help move a person from merely knowing truth to living from that truth?
- B. Personal Application: Choose one situation you are currently facing. Walk through the four movements: What are you identifying with? How should you interpret the situation according to God’s truth? What contrary thought or pattern should you refuse to give authority? What action should you initiate from your identity in Christ?

## Scripture Reference Section — KJVS

### Philippians 2:6–9 KJVS

“Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: [7] But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: [8] And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. [9] Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:”

### Luke 6:43–47 KJVS

“For a good tree bringeth not forth corrupt fruit; neither doth a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. [44] For every tree is known by his own fruit. For of thorns men do not gather figs, nor of a bramble bush gather they grapes. [45] A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh. [46] And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say? [47] Whosoever cometh to me, and heareth my sayings, and doeth them, I will shew you to whom he is like:”

**2 Corinthians 5:17 KJVS**

“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”

**2 Peter 1:3 KJVS**

“According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:”

**Galatians 5:22–23 KJVS**

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, [23] Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.”

**Romans 7:19 KJVS**

“For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do.”

**John 10:30 KJVS**

“I and my Father are one.”

**John 14:9 KJVS**

“Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?”

**1 Corinthians 6:17 KJVS**

“But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit.”

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