

# WEEK 5: THE END: NEW CREATION

**Core Truth:** The resurrection starts God's new creation, the already *and* not yet end of God's story.

**Key Bible Verses:**

Rev. 21:1-5; 1 Cor. 15:20; 2 Cor. 5:17

**New City Catechism:** Qs 50-52

**Review/Recall:**

1. What are the questions of identity and purpose?
2. What are the four parts of God's story? What does shame cause us to do?
3. Jesus does what we could not do: he is the true image-bearer.

**1. Christian hope is not about going to heaven. It is about *new creation*.**

- God's heart has always been to be *with* his people by sharing his story with us.
- New creation is about finally making heaven and earth *one*.

**Revelation 21:1-5**

**1** Then I saw "a new heaven and a new earth," for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. **2** I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. **3** And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. **4** 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

**5** He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

**2. Jesus' resurrection is the firstfruits of new creation.**

**1 Corinthians 15:20**

But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

- A new creation where:
  - Shame is transformed into dignity *because of Jesus*
  - Relationships are made whole *because of Jesus*
  - Death is defeated by life *because of Jesus*

Easter is about the wild delight of God's creative power... Easter about the real Jesus coming out of the real tomb and getting God's real new creation underway.

-NT Wright

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### 3. The Holy Spirit is the multiplier of new creation.

- God's new creation expands in the same way as the original: be *fruitful* and *multiply*.
- In us as *individuals*:
  - by putting to death sin in us
  - by growing the fruit of the Spirit in us so that we can be true image-bearers like Jesus



*Ancient Baptismal:  
Dying and Rising with Christ*

Shivta, Southern Israel, 5th Century

#### **2 Corinthians 5:17**

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

#### **Galatians 2:20**

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

#### **Galatians 5:22-25**

**22** But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, **23** gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. **24** Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. **25** Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

- Through us as the *church*:
  - by initiating us into God's story in *baptism*.
  - by reminding us of the God's story in *communion*.
  - by celebrating new creation in *worship*.
  - by living God's story in *mission*.

## **WEEK 5: THE END: NEW CREATION**

### **Discussion Questions**

**1. Have you ever thought about new creation as what we have hope in as Christians? How is that different than Jesus just “getting us to heaven?”**

**2. Which of the fruits of the Spirit make you feel most connected to God’s work of new creation? Which fruit would you like the Spirit to grow more in you?**

**3. Which of the four signs of the church—baptism, communion, worship, or mission—make you feel most like you’re a part of a story that’s bigger than yourself?**