

GROW
New
1 Corinthians 15:50-58

New is better! We all believe this. New CLOTHES are fun, and new HOUSES are exciting. A new car is awesome because it looks new and smells new and feels new. It has all of the new TOYS and GADGETS on it that would cause you to wreck if it did not have the NEW TECHNOLOGY that SELF CORRECTS your driving when you are playing with those new toys! WE LIKE NEW! But there is only ONE PROBLEM with new: It gets OLD! It WEARS OUT. It gets BROKEN. In a word (even with the newest of the new in our world), new is still TEMPORARY. This is because all of the new stuff in our world is made of the OLD STUFF of creation that is rapidly DYING. It is CORRUPTIBLE. It will not last. I bought a NEW GRILL just a few weeks ago. It is awesome, and it has made some amazing steaks, but it is already BREAKING DOWN. I am sad. Someone needs to make some stuff that STAYS NEW FOREVER. And while they are at it, they need to do some internal work on MY HEAD so that I do not GET TIRED of the NEW THING that they made for me! Ugh! We struggle with that even with the stuff that is just temporarily new. We often get tired of new things even before the temporary new smell wears off of them!! That is just MESSED UP!

God has a plan. It is a good plan. **He will make new . . . new again!** Jesus said this from his THRONE in Revelation: **Revelation 21:5 NLT**

5 And the one sitting on the throne said, "Look, I am making **everything** new!" And then he said to me, "Write this down, for what I tell you is trustworthy and true."

Sin has messed up God's good creation, but God has a plan. He will make ALL things NEW. Creation will be recreated. The old universe will be "rolled up like a scroll" and will be restored and then unrolled as a brand new, everlasting new, glorious new, incorruptible new universe. And sin will NEVER mess it up! Until then, God is UNFOLDING his plan THROUGH his children. **Our message today is a REMINDER of the truth that only that which is MADE NEW by God will be able to STAY NEW in God's ETERNALLY NEW KINGDOM.**

1 Corinthians 15:50 NASB

50 Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

THE RULE OF HEAVEN: You gotta be CHANGED to get in!

You CAN'T HANDLE HEAVEN! [Contrary to popular myth: Not everyone gets in!]

-Your OLD NATURE would DESPISE Heaven's CULTURE and KING.

-Your OLD BODY would DISINTIGRATE in Heaven's ATMOSPHERE.

[Illustration: An ASTRONAUT has to have a SPACE SUIT to survive in SPACE!]

***The Rule of Heaven FIRST requires a SPIRITUAL CHANGE.**

-Jesus said: "You MUST be BORN AGAIN." **John 3:3-7 NLT**

3 Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God." 4 "What do you mean?" exclaimed Nicodemus. "How can an old man go back into his mother's womb and be born again?" 5 Jesus replied, "I assure you, no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit. 6 Humans can reproduce only human life, but the Holy Spirit gives birth to spiritual life. 7 So don't be surprised when I say, 'You must be born again.'

*This demands a MIRACLE of RE-CREATION within your SPIRIT.

*This is a NEW START; an ultimate "DO-OVER" saturated with a NEW HOPE.

2 Corinthians 5:17 NLT

17 This means that anyone who belongs to Christ **has become** a new person. The old life is gone; a new life **has begun!**

*This NEW BIRTH happens as quickly as will our resurrection change!

-WHY? Because it is a work of GOD, and not a work that WE do!

-Like newborn babies, we gradually DISCOVER the wonder of our new self.

*The new birth leads to a DEATH and a CHANGE of NATURE and BEHAVIOR.

2 Corinthians 5:14-15 NLT

14 Either way, **Christ's love controls us.** Since we believe that Christ died for all, we also believe that we have all **died to our old life.** 15 He died for everyone so that those who receive his new life will **no longer live for themselves.** Instead, **they will live for Christ,** who died and was raised for them.

-This means that all believers experience a DIFFERENT KIND of DEATH:
Death to our OLD LIFE!

*This means that we have died to our old way of living w/o reference to God and his will!

-A NEW LIFE means a CHANGED LIFE! [\[Change requires that you DIE to what WAS so that you can embrace what NOW IS!\]](#)

*Our NEW NATURE will have purified DESIRES and GOALS.

-Christ's LOVE will be our MOTIVATION and FUEL.

-ANDY STANLEY'S MESSAGE: The NEW TESTAMENT and LOVE!

*Our NEW LIFE will move in a different DIRECTION. [\[Preview UP Series\]](#)

The Rule of Heaven FINALLY requires a PHYSICAL CHANGE!

*God will ONE DAY do with your BODY what he has ALREADY done with your SOUL.

*[If you have NOT already experienced NEW LIFE with Christ,](#) then neither your soul NOR your body are ready for Heaven!

1 Corinthians 15:50-52 NLT

50 What I am saying, dear brothers and sisters, is that our physical bodies cannot inherit the Kingdom of God. These dying bodies cannot inherit what will last forever. 51 But let me reveal to you a **wonderful secret**. We will not all die, but we will all be **transformed**! 52 It will happen in a moment, in the blink of an eye, when the last trumpet is blown. For when the trumpet sounds, those who have died will be raised to live forever. And we who are living will also be transformed.

*Corruptible bodies CANNOT HANDLE HEAVEN.

-We tend to try and fit heaven into earth. It cannot happen.

-There are many things on earth that CANNOT GO into heaven.

*NOTHING that is CORRUPT or CORRUPTIBLE will exist in heaven.

-My SIN NATURE will be obliterated! No more temptation!

*You need new clothing; a new body. Your SOUL needs to be clothed in a NEW BODY . . . made by the God who has already transformed your soul!

-God is an AWESOME CREATOR!

-In some sense, Jesus has been working on your "NEW HOUSE" for years!

-Remember, he only took a short minute to create Adam from dust!

-He took a bit longer to BUILD Eve from Adam's rib. [Better quality work!]

Jesus said that he was going away to "prepare a place for us." Maybe what he is preparing is not just a "mansion over in glory land," but a BODY that he has specially made just for you to dwell IN HIM. Remember, your body right now is a "temple of the Holy Spirit which is IN YOU!" That body may already be fashioned for you and is just waiting for the moment of resurrection to become your new heavenly attire!

2 Corinthians 5:1, 4 NLT

1 For we know that when this **earthly tent** we live in is taken down (that is, when we die and leave this **earthly body**), we will have a **house in heaven, an eternal body made for us by God himself** and not by human hands. ... 4 While we live in these earthly bodies, we groan and sigh, but it's not that we want to die and get rid of these bodies that clothe us. Rather, we want to put on our new bodies so that these dying bodies will be swallowed up by life.

So, how will this body be different? In many ways! I love to IMAGINE what it might be like. We know that it will not be subject to the laws of physics as our current bodies are. (Jesus walked through walls and appeared in places far from where he had been just moments before!) Our bodies will be able to be "snatched in a moment" from earth to heaven without damage. These bodies are made of material that will never decay, wear out, or die.

*Your new body will be MAGNIFICENTLY DIFFERENT from your present body!

1 Corinthians 15:35-38 NLT

35 But someone may ask, "How will the dead be raised? What kind of bodies will they have?" 36 What a foolish question! When you put a seed into the ground, it doesn't grow into a plant unless it dies first. 37 And what you put in the ground is

not the plant that will grow, but only a bare seed of wheat or whatever you are planting. 38 Then God gives it the new body he wants it to have. A different plant grows from each kind of seed.

ILLUSTRATION:

PICTURE: A caterpillar (1st pic) and a butterfly (2nd Pic)

PICTURE: An ACORN and a LIVE OAK TREE (Final Pic)

*Faith DEMANDS that we LOOK THROUGH DEATH to SEE NEW LIFE.

1 Corinthians 15:53-58 NLT

53 For our dying bodies must be transformed into bodies that will never die; our mortal bodies must be transformed into immortal bodies. 54 **Then**, when our dying bodies have been transformed into bodies that will never die, this Scripture will be fulfilled: "Death is swallowed up in victory. 55 O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" 56 For sin is the sting that results in death, and the law gives sin its power. 57 But thank God! He gives us victory over sin and death through our Lord Jesus Christ.

***Death is now the TRAINING GROUND of FAITH.**

-Death has already been CONQUERED, but it has not yet been DESTROYED!

*Death STILL STINGS us as we face it every day! **[FUNERALS and HOPE]**

-We have to learn to TRUST CHRIST through death to see resurrection!

1 Corinthians 15:23-26 NLT

23 But there is an order to this resurrection: Christ was raised as the first of the harvest; then all who belong to Christ will be raised when he comes back. 24 After that the end will come, when he will turn the Kingdom over to God the Father, having destroyed every ruler and authority and power. 25 For Christ must reign until he humbles all his enemies beneath his feet. 26 And the last enemy to be destroyed is death.

The Grim Reaper himself will be grabbed by the throat and thrown into hell. Jesus conquered death, hell, and the grave! Until then, we are called to LIVE OUT our NEW LIFE with the certainty that ALL that we do for him in these days will be rewarded in eternity. **2 Corinthians 15:58 NLT**

58 So, my dear brothers and sisters, be strong and immovable. Always work enthusiastically for the Lord, for you know that nothing you do for the Lord is ever useless.

This is our privilege. We get to live for God in a way that will DEMONSTRATE his NEW LIFE in this OLD WORLD by our NEW WORKS. And he rewards every single act that we do out of our new natures. And it will NEVER GET OLD.

Let's pray.