

# Learning to Live in Christ: The New Divine Nature

## ALL TOGETHER:

Galatians 2:20 New Living Translation (NLT)

20 My old self has been crucified with Christ.<sup>[a]</sup> It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

John 3:1-8 New Living Translation (NLT)

**3** There was a man named Nicodemus, a Jewish religious leader who was a Pharisee. **2** After dark one evening, he came to speak with Jesus. "Rabbi," he said, "we all know that God has sent you to teach us. Your miraculous signs are evidence that God is with you."

**3** Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, unless you are born again,<sup>[a]</sup> 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.<sup>[b]</sup> **6** Humans can reproduce only human life, but the Holy Spirit gives birth to spiritual life.<sup>[c]</sup> **7** So don't be surprised when I say, 'You<sup>[d]</sup> must be born again.' **8** The wind blows wherever it wants. Just as you can hear the wind but can't tell where it comes from or where it is going, so you can't explain how people are born of the Spirit."

## 2 Corinthians 5:16-17 New Living Translation (NLT)

16 So we have stopped evaluating others from a human point of view. At one time we thought of Christ merely from a human point of view. How differently we know him now! 17 This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

Once we stop evaluating from a human point of view we can see Christ within each other, we can see evidence of the new life!

## Colossians 3:10-11 New Living Translation (NLT)

10 Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him. 11 In this new life, it doesn't matter if you are a Jew or a Gentile,<sup>[a]</sup> circumcised or uncircumcised, barbaric, uncivilized,<sup>[b]</sup> slave, or free. Christ is all that matters, and he lives in all of us.

What has been moved out of the way of those who belong to Christ?

## Galatians 5:24-25 New Living Translation (NLT)

24 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there. 25 Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives.

Ephesians 2 New Living Translation (NLT)

## Made Alive with Christ

**2** Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins. **2** You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil—the commander of the powers in the unseen world.<sup>[a]</sup> He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God. **3** All of us used to live that way, following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature. By our very nature we were subject to God’s anger, just like everyone else.

**4** But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, **5** that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God’s grace that you have been saved!) **6** For he raised us from the dead along with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ Jesus. **7** So God can point to us in all future ages as examples of the incredible wealth of his grace and kindness toward us, as shown in all he has done for us who are united with Christ Jesus.

**8** God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can’t take credit for this; it is a gift from God. **9** Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. **10** For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

2 Peter 1:3-11 New Living Translation (NLT)

## Growing in Faith

3 By his divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life. We have received all of this by coming to know him, the one who called us to himself by means of his marvelous glory and excellence. 4 And because of his glory and excellence, he has given us great and precious promises. These are the promises that enable you to share his divine nature and escape the world's corruption caused by human desires.

5 In view of all this, make every effort to respond to God's promises. Supplement your faith with a generous provision of moral excellence, and moral excellence with knowledge, 6 and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with patient endurance, and patient endurance with godliness, 7 and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love for everyone.

8 The more you grow like this, the more productive and useful you will be in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 But those who fail to develop in this way are shortsighted or blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their old sins.

10 So, dear brothers and sisters,<sup>[a]</sup> work hard to prove that you really are among those God has called and chosen. Do these things, and you will never fall away. 11 Then God will give you a grand entrance into the eternal Kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

#### Romans 8:9-17 New Living Translation (NLT)

9 But you are not controlled by your sinful nature. You are controlled by the Spirit if you have the Spirit of God living in you. (And remember that those who do not have the Spirit of Christ living in them do not belong to him at all.) 10 And Christ lives within you, so even though your body will die because of sin, the Spirit gives you life<sup>[a]</sup> because you have been made right with

God. **11** The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you.

**12** Therefore, dear brothers and sisters,<sup>[b]</sup> you have no obligation to do what your sinful nature urges you to do. **13** For if you live by its dictates, you will die. But if through the power of the Spirit you put to death the deeds of your sinful nature,<sup>[c]</sup> you will live. **14** For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children<sup>[d]</sup> of God.

**15** So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when he adopted you as his own children.<sup>[e]</sup> Now we call him, "Abba, Father."<sup>[f]</sup> **16** For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God's children. **17** And since we are his children, we are his heirs. In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God's glory. But if we are to share his glory, we must also share his suffering.

Colossians 3:1-4 New Living Translation (NLT)

## Living the New Life

**3** Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand. **2** Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth. **3** For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God. **4** And when Christ, who is your<sup>[a]</sup> life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory.

Colossians 3:12-17 New Living Translation (NLT)

12 Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. 13 Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. 14 Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony. 15 And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful.

16 Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives. Teach and counsel each other with all the wisdom he gives. Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with thankful hearts. 17 And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father.