



August 9, 2026 | Dr. Jimmy Stewart

Jesus Changes Everything

Jesus Changes the Old Life → Creates a New Life

Key Verse: *Anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!* 2 Corinthians 5:17

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 2:20; Ezekiel 36:26; Ephesians 4:22–24; Colossians 3:9–10; Revelation 21:5

Spotlight: Jesus did not come to improve this old life; He makes each believer new from the inside out.

Call to Believers: In Christ you should stop living out of or participating in your old fleshly, worldly, sinful, chaotic identity. Jesus died so the old you can die to self—putting on the new life He rose to give you.

Call to the Lost: Stop trusting your ability to figure things out and trust the One who created you and the One and Only who can save you from death and destruction. Call on the name of the Lord and you will be saved! (Romans 10:13)

Key Truth: Jesus Transforms All Who Believe and Surrender to Him

Jesus did not come simply to make bad people behave better. He came to make spiritually dead people alive. Following Jesus is not a renovation of the old life with religion, morality, and self-improvement. Through Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection, He gives us a new identity, a new heart, a new way of living, and a new future.

Galatians 2:20 ESV

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

1. In Christ, We Receive a New Identity and a New Heart
2 Corinthians 5:17; Ezekiel 36:26

In 2 Corinthians 5:17, Paul states, *"Anyone who belongs to Christ."* The transformation does not begin with changing our behavior; it begins with changing our relationship to Jesus. Surrender and Belonging! "He Owns You!" What better place to be than in the hands of Jesus!

His death is the payment for our sins, His resurrection is the source of our new life, and His righteousness is our standing before God.

The Greek word translated "new," describes something new in nature or quality—not merely something repaired. Jesus does not produce an improved version of the person we once were. He creates something authentic and completely new. *"Anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person."*

Our past may serve to underline God's transformative work, but it no longer defines us. Our sins may be part of our story, but they are no longer our identity.

Believers are not defined by who we were, what we did, what was done to us, or what others called us. We are defined by who we are in Christ and how He leads us to live walking by faith in this present age. We are defined by how we interact with the world around us and the light we shine for the glory of God! If you have not yet believed, you can begin today by trusting in Christ Alone. You can leave your old life behind and find your new identity and receive a new heart in Jesus!

Ezekiel 36:26

And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you.

Our deepest problem is not merely what we do; it is what we desire. Sin flows from a heart that is resistant to God. That is why rules (the Law) alone cannot change us. External pressure may restrain behavior temporarily, but only God transforms the heart.

God promises:

- To remove the hard, stubborn heart.
- To give us a tender, responsive heart.
- To place His Spirit within us.
- To create within us a desire to obey Him.

The gospel does not tell us to try harder. It announces what God alone in Christ can do: "I will give you a new heart." We must surrender our sinful, worldly and self-centered will to His good, acceptable and perfect will.

A new heart makes it so we can no longer be completely comfortable living in sin. The Holy Spirit brings conviction, leads to repentance, and creates a growing desire to please God.

Jesus changes far more than our thoughts, words and actions; He changes the very heart from which they are born.

2. In Christ, the Old Life Must Be Thrown Off and The New Life Must Be Put On

Ephesians 4:21-24; Colossians 3:9-10

Ephesians 4:22

Throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life.

Colossians 3:9

Strip off your old nature and all its wicked deeds.

Although the old life is gone positionally, its old patterns may still try to influence us practically. We have been delivered from sin's authority, but we must learn to reject its habits.

Paul describes this as removing old clothing. We are to "throw off" the practices that belonged to our former life.

We do not put off these behaviors to earn a new identity. We put them off because Jesus has already given us a new identity.

The question is no longer merely, "Is this wrong?" The deeper question is, "Does this belong to the new life Jesus has given me?"

We cannot walk freely in the new life while continuing to wear the habits of the old life.

Ephesians 4:24

Put on your new nature, created to be like God—truly righteous and holy.

Christian transformation involves more than stopping sinful behavior. God replaces the old with something new: Jesus Changes Everything - see previous sermons in this series!

We do not merely stop lying; we begin speaking the truth in love. We do not merely suppress anger; we pursue reconciliation. We do not simply avoid selfishness; we actively serve others.

The new life becomes visible through new ongoing choices we make.

Grace does not simply teach us what to stop doing; it empowers us to become more like Jesus.

Colossians 3:10-11

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

The goal is not merely becoming a better version of ourselves. The goal is becoming increasingly like Jesus.

New birth happens in a moment; growing into our new life is an adventurous lifelong journey.

3. In Christ, Our Thinking Will Be Made New

Ephesians 4:23

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Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes.

Between putting off the old life and putting on the new life, Paul emphasizes the renewal of the mind. Lasting transformation requires learning to think according to God's truth.

New life leaves behind old excuses:

- "I can never change."
- "My past will always define me."
- "I have to satisfy my every desire."
- "I must protect myself at all costs."
- "My self worth depends on what others think."
- "God could never truly forgive me."

The Holy Spirit confronts these lies with the truth of Scripture. We begin to see ourselves, our circumstances, other people, and God through the hope of the gospel and a new identity in Christ.

A renewed life grows from a mind constantly renewed by God's truth.

4. Jesus Ultimately Makes Everything New

Revelation 21:5

Revelation 21:5

Look, I am making everything new!

The work Jesus begins within believers points toward what He will ultimately accomplish throughout creation. The same Savior who makes us new will one day make everything new. He will bring an end to: Death, Sorrow, Crying, Pain, Sin, Separation from God and all that is good!

Jesus will make everything new. What sin has corrupted, Jesus will redeem. What death has broken, Jesus will restore.

The new life Jesus begins in us will be completed when He makes all creation new.

Jesus did not die and rise again merely to make our old lives more comfortable or respectable. He came to end the rule of the old life and begin something entirely new. In

Christ, we receive a new identity, a new heart, a renewed mind, a new way of living, and the promise of a new creation today and forever.

Although the habits of the old life may still call to us from time to time, they no longer have the right to define or control us. We now operate and live from who Christ says we are. We put off the old, allow the Spirit to renew our thinking, and put on the character of Jesus. The new life in Christ, the Christian life, is not pretending that the old you never existed; it is believing that, through Christ, the old no longer defines you. Jesus does. And the new life in Christ focuses on Jesus . . . following, praising, serving and witnessing, today into forever!

Next Steps: Stop trying to repair a life that Jesus came to replace. Turn from your sin, place your faith in the crucified and risen Christ, and receive the new life only He can give. The old life can be forgiven, its power can be broken, and a new life can begin today. Believe, surrender and be made new!

Life Application:

1. What part of your past are you still allowing to define you more than your new identity in Christ?
2. Are you trying to manage outward behavior, or have you surrendered your heart and life to Jesus for genuine transformation?
3. What attitude, habit, relationship, or sinful pattern belongs to your old life and needs to be "thrown off" and "stripped away"?
4. What old excuse or lie are you continuing to believe, and what truth from God's Word can you remember to use in its place?
5. What Christlike quality does God want you to "put on" in place of an old behavior?
6. Where can you see evidence that the Holy Spirit is renewing your life, even though His work in you is ongoing?
7. If you truly believed Jesus is making everything new now and forever, how would it change the way you face today's pain, temptation, disappointment, or uncertainty?