

# Why Does My New Life Look So Much Like My Old Life?

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# The Promise of New Life

- For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives. *[Rom 6:4, NLT]*
- 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 in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. *[Gal 2:20, ESV]*
- Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. *[2 Cor 5:17 ESV]*

# Atonement

- Therefore, it was necessary for him to be made in every respect like us, his brothers and sisters, so that he could be our merciful and faithful High Priest before God. Then he could offer a sacrifice that would take away the sins of the people. *[Heb 2:17 NLT]*
- For God in all his fullness was pleased to live in Christ, and through him God reconciled everything to himself. He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth by means of Christ's blood on the cross. *[Col 1:19-20]*

# Where is Your New Life?

- For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. [Col 3:3 NIV]
- And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ... But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— [Eph 2:1,4-6, ESV]
- We know that we have passed from death to life because we love our brothers. The one who does not love remains in death. [1 Jn 3:14 HCSB]

# Three Classes of Men

- People who live for themselves
- A divided life
  - Their life is divided, like a soldier's or a school boy's life, into time of 'on parade' and 'off parade', 'in school' and 'out of school'. [*Present Concerns: Journalistic Essays*, C. S. Lewis, Kindle Ed. Loc 336]
  - The tax which the moral conscience levies on our desires does not in fact leave us enough to live on. As long as we are in this class we must either feel guilt because we have not paid tax or [extreme poverty] because we have. [*ibid. Loc 344*]

# Three Classes of Men

- People who live for themselves
- A divided life
- Embracing the new life
  - These people have got rid of the tiresome business of adjusting the rival claims of Self and God by the simple expedient of rejecting the claims of Self altogether. The old egoistic will has been turned round, reconditioned, and made into a new thing. The will of Christ no longer limits theirs; it is theirs. All their time, in belonging to Him, belongs also to them, for they are His. *[ibid, Loc 340]*

# How To Embrace a New Life?

- Since you have heard about Jesus and have learned the truth that comes from him, throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception. Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes. Put on your new nature, created to be like God—truly righteous and holy. [Eph 4:21-24, NLT]

# How To Embrace a New Life?

- ...for you have stripped off your old sinful nature and all its wicked deeds. Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him.

[Colossians 3:9b-10, NLT]



# Three Things to Notice

- Its easy! Or is it?
- An on going process
- The new life is not up to us

# Why is this so hard?

- We can stop the process
- We can be bound by pride and fear

# Why is this so hard?

What often blocks the action of God's grace in our lives is less our sins or failings, than it is our failure to accept our own weakness—all those rejections, conscious or not, of what we really are or of our real situation. To “set grace free” in our lives, and paving the way for deep and spectacular changes, it sometimes would be enough to say simply “yes”—a “yes” inspired by trust in God to aspects of our lives we've been rejecting. We refuse to admit that we have this defect, that weak point, were marked by this event, fell into that sin. And so we block the Holy Spirit's action, since he can only affect our reality to the extent we accept it ourselves. The Holy Spirit never acts unless we freely cooperate. We must accept ourselves just as we are, if the Holy Spirit is to change us for the better.

[J. Philippe, Interior Freedom, Kindle Ed. Loc 335]

# Why is this so hard?

The person God loves with the tenderness of a Father, the person he wants to touch and to transform with his love, is not the person we'd have liked to be or ought to be. It's the person we are. God doesn't love "ideal persons" or "virtual beings." He loves actual, real people. [ibid. Loc 327]

# Why is this so hard?

- We can stop the process
- We can be bound by pride and fear
- We don't know what we don't know

*We urgently need the mediation of another's eyes to love ourselves and accept ourselves. The eyes may be those of a parent, a friend, a spiritual director; but above all they are those of God our Father. [ibid, loc 362]*

# Does your new life seem a lot like your old one?

- Have you failed to count the cost?
- Are you trying DIY improvements, before letting Jesus in?
- Do you need help to know what we don't know?

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