THE NEW MAN

Sermon by
Pastor Jesse O'Dorisio
Living Waters Tabernacle
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II Corinthians 5:17 "Therefore if any man [be] in Christ, [he is] a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

"A new creature" means a new line: completely different, completely changed. This man as a new creature is not something that has been worked on; he is completely new, a brand-new creation. Nothing is old, there is no refurbishment.

David wrote in Psalm 103:12 "Lord you removed my sin as far as the east is from the west." We can thank the Lord this is all part of that new creation that we are in Christ.

Exactly how far is that removal of sin? 1 John 3:9 tells us "Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God." We are born of God because of the life of Jesus Christ and His blood that was shed for us. Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin, because that life of Jesus in us is His seed. Being born of God we received the life of Christ. Once we receive the life of Christ then that life, that seed, remains in us.

If we just read one chapter from 1 John chapters one, two and three we would be encouraged, but we could still be a little bit confused. We have to get to chapter three, and beyond, to understand what John was talking about in chapter one. The enemy will pull little portions of scripture out of context and twist it to try to confuse us. God is not the author of confusion. We know the answer: It is written. We need to rightly divide the Word of God. We are not just protected from sin – **WE DO NOT SIN AND WE CANNOT SIN**. Praise be to God, He placed us in the realm of grace where there is no law, so it is impossible for us to sin.

To assure us even more that God always does exceeding abundantly above all we ask or think, He placed us in a state of "in Christ" where there is no law. There are no Ten Commandments, and there are no ordinances. Where there is no law, there is no sin. "Because the law worketh wrath: for where no law is, [there is] no transgression" (Romans 4:15). We are free indeed! The law works wrath. That is why the Apostle Paul expressed his desire in Philippians 3:9 "And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith." Paul did not want to be found in his own self-righteousness, of the law. He knew that the law would only work wrath. Because we are born of God we cannot sin, and we do not commit sin. It is impossible for us to sin because we are under grace. There is no law we can break to sin. Let the Spirit put all that together.

We need to stop trying to keep ourselves from doing something when the Lord has already completely removed sin from our lives in Jesus. If we go after law, which is leaven, we will constantly be trying to do something that has already been done. That is not where the Lord wants us.

The thing that is very tragic about trying to do something that God has already done is that it will cost us the crown. We have a crown gospel by the grace of God. The message that we have been given is not the message of a palm-waver. It is not about trying to get a crown. It is about the crown that we have. The message of Paul's gospel gave us our crowns. The Spirit beseeches us as Philadelphia saints, "hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown" (Revelation 3:11). We are so thankful to God for His faithfulness. It is His love and His grace that gives us everything. We know that our crowns are apprehended entirely by grace. It is completely the mercy of the Lord, and

completely undeserved. The immensity of this wonderful gospel of the crown that we have received is the greatest example of mercy there could ever be, and the greatest example of the height of grace. It never flips back to the flesh. It is the magnificent magnifying of the Spirit of the life of Christ in us that has grown us up to Him in all things.

We thank the Lord, and we rejoice, because we know Christ in us magnifies one thing: the grace of God. But if we go after a little bit of leaven and start thinking how we are going to do this or that, or live like this or that, it will cost us our crowns. A lot of saints that have started in this Bridal gospel, in this message of the crown glory, have believed that it is more important to mess around with the leaven. God's Word clearly tells us that even a little bit of leaven leavens the whole lump (Galatians 5:9). Just a little bit is like a parasite. If we go after even a little leaven, we will go after more. And, if we go after more leaven, eventually we take ourselves away from this wonderful Bridal message and become completely consumed, cold, and judgmental. God help us to not let that be us.

Galatians 2:20 tells us, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh [physical body] I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me." It is wonderful that we need Jesus. "Whosoever calls upon the name of the Lord Jesus shall be saved" (Romans 10:13), and, now, Christ lives in you. Everything is brand new because Jesus died for you. All that is old is gone. We have got the Son of God in our lives, and now we live by the faith of Him. Jesus gave us everything: His life, His love, His peace, His rest, His strength, His grace, His mercy, **and His faith**.

We wake up every day by the grace of God to praise Him for this grace, and praise Him that it is all Jesus. This life which we live in the flesh we live by the faith of the Son of God. It is Jesus who loved us and gave Himself for us. It is all Him. There are no requirements; no ifs, ands, buts, or catches. He just freely loved us, and freely gave us everything. Now He lives in us. We have been blessed with all spiritual blessings in the heavens in Christ (Ephesians 1:3). We lack nothing.

In John chapter three, Nicodemus was asking about salvation and entering into the kingdom. Jesus told him about being born again in the Spirit. John 3:5-6 "That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit." You need to be born of God to enter into the kingdom of God. Every man that has ever been born is born of the flesh; but, if we want to enter into the kingdom of God, and go to heaven, we have got to be born of the Spirit. Once that happens, everything is new. That old flesh life is dead! That which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

Some people will wonder who we are. All that matters is who we are in Christ. We have to get over ourselves. We died! It is time to quit living that nightmare, and instead read about the wonder of Christ in you, the hope of glory. All of the hope of glory is living right in here, in our earthen vessels. That is where God put the treasure so the glory would be of Him, and not of us.

I Corinthians 3:16: "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and [that] the Spirit of God dwells in you?" Because we are born of the Spirit of God we are born of God, and this verse makes it clear that the Spirit of God dwells in us.

Romans 8:8-9, "So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you."

That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. We are born of the Spirit, and the Spirit of God dwells in us. We are not in the flesh, we are in the Spirit. We are in Christ. Our minds want to see with our natural eyes, how it looks, how it feels, but that is the lie. The Truth is, what does the Word of the Lord say? It is not what my mind says, or what a pastor says, or what a preacher or a teacher says, or what anyone else says. **The Bible says the Spirit of God dwells in us and we ARE NOT in the flesh. Hallelujah!** If we want to grow up into Him in all things we have to know this. It is the grace and mercy Saints that rule and reign with Him. And, the grace and mercy Saints know this, it is their praise and their rejoicing, it is everything to us to magnify our Lord and His great grace.

Galatians 5:18 brings us to another bastion of grace and mercy, and more witness to the fact that the Spirit of God dwells in us because we are the temple of God, and we are not in the flesh. “But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.” Now we are talking about being led of the Spirit. What do we have to do to do that? This sermon started with ‘where there is no law there is no sin’. We can be thankful Jesus took care of this, too. We are going to continue to hear the Word: ‘if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law’.

God’s Word tells us who we are, and who our identity is. We don’t look at our flesh to tell us who we are. We look to the Word of God to tell us who our identity is, and who we are. It tells us that we are not under the law. How many times does the Word of God tell us we are not under the law, but under grace? We can let the Spirit tell us we are not under the law. WE WALK IN THE SPIRIT. We don’t walk as human beings because we try, and we don’t walk in the Spirit because we try. We are human, and we walk as humans. We have got the Spirit of God in us, and there is no law, so we walk in the Spirit. We walk in the Spirit because we are born of the Spirit, because of the life of Jesus Christ in us walks in the Spirit. **So yield to that new life. Be who you are in Christ, and the love of God will reign in you to desire heavenly things, where we are seated with Him in the heavens right now**.

We need to quit thinking that we are under the law. Romans 4:15 tells us, “Where there is no law, there is no transgression.” We can rejoice in Colossians 2:13 that tells us why there is no law for us, and why it is all grace: “And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses.” God just didn’t forgive your sin. This is our God, and with Him there is always more. Colossians 4:14 tells us not only did Jesus give us His life, not only did He take away all that sin, not only did He do everything including putting us in the realm of grace, He blotted out the handwriting of ordinances with His blood, because all that was against us which was contrary to us.

Why would we try to pick something up that is going to hurt us, that is contrary to us, and that Jesus took out of the way for us? It does not make sense. That is the mind of the enemy in chaos and confusion. Jesus took *all* that out of the way by nailing it to His cross.

Brother A.S. Copley received the grace and mercy of the Lord many years ago. He was used of the Lord to encourage us to not be ashamed of the depth of the gospel. He said, “When we were crucified and died with Christ the sinning man died. We were all born in sin and shapen in iniquity, but when we died with Christ – when we accepted Jesus as Savior – that sinning man died. As far as I know a dead man can’t sin.”

Jesus removed our sin, and in His new life we do not sin, and we cannot sin. God put us in His grace where there is no law. We are assured that we are born of the Spirit of God. We are the temple of God. We are in His Spirit, and not in the flesh, and we walk in the Spirit because we are not under the law. YET SOME SAINTS ARE STILL GOING TO BE CONSUMED WITH SIN!

Galatians 5:19, “Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are [these]; adultery, fornication, uncleanness [that means lust], lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance [somebody who likes to quarrel]; emulations [jealousy], wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revelings [a partier], and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told [you] in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.” If someone does those things, they are not going to inherit the kingdom of God - that certainly cannot be talking about us. We are not that “they.” We are children of God. Romans 8:17 tells us, “And if children, then heirs; heirs of God.” This is very clear: if we are children of God then we are heirs of God. We inherit the Kingdom, and we are not “they” that do not inherit, or “they” that manifest the works of the flesh.

Romans 8:38-39 tells us, “For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” We cannot be separated from God’s love in any way, shape, or form.

Galatians 5:22-23, “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance.” Jesus has given us His joy, His love, His grace, His peace, His temperance, and His meekness. We do not develop that, Jesus gave it to us. It is all in His life that lives in us, and that is why there is no law for us.

We are in the realm of grace where there is no law. God assures us of that. It is wonderful that we know that we are Christ’s, and that we have been bought with His precious blood. We see what has been done in Galatians 5:24 “And they that are Christ’s.” That is us, and that means we belong to Jesus. We are in Him, and as a matter of fact He saw us in Him in love before the foundation of the world. We have been in Him a long time!

And they that are Christ’s have crucified the flesh – and not just the flesh, but the flesh with the affections and lusts. Brother Copley noted that not just the old man is dead, but even our old nature is dead; he also said “our body.” This is speaking of our flesh, and not ourselves. These bodies – this flesh – are not who we are. These bodies are only houses we live in. Sin in the flesh seeks to lie to us, and trick us into thinking somehow we are enslaved to the flesh because we live in it. Brother Copley went on to say that it is no sin to have these bodily desires. We cannot help it, it is natural man. Nor is it sin to be tempted to gratify these fleshly desires.

But most will stop right there, and say, “But if you yield to that temptation, it’s sin.” That comes out of James 1:14-15, “But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.” Well, if you pull that out of James chapter one all by itself, you will be confused.

See, in Matthew 5:27 Jesus spoke to the self-righteous: “You have heard that it was said by them of old time, thou shalt not commit adultery.” We do not act upon that lust, because that is sin. But, Jesus continues in verse 28, “But I say unto you, that whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.” Right there the lust is sin – if that is the way you want to go. Don’t try to twist it, just read the Word of God. If we want to meet the Lord in our flesh we will never get there.

By the grace of God we must stop the leaven. Going back to Galatians chapter five, even our lusts were crucified and made dead on the cross. God knows who He is dealing with. We do not parade ourselves around thinking we are the finest of all the Bridal saints. It was the one that was forgiven the most that inherited the most. We can read all over the word of God how the one that understands His love the most inherits the most. God’s Word never says that the ones that try to get themselves to do the best things, and be the best person, and have the best appearance among men, win anything. Matter of fact, that kind of thinking will cost us. We had better trust that the Lord has made us sinless, or we will forever run and beat the air. The only thing that will ever grow us up into Him in all things is to speak the truth in love. We need to receive this from the Spirit.

Will we finally leave the leaven alone?

We are running out of time. The coming of the Lord is close at hand.

The Word of God assures us that we cannot hold a crown and leaven. We are going to choose one, or the other. We cannot hold our crowns and still be holding on to the flesh.

We want to only be found having the righteousness of Jesus Christ. That is grace…the more grace…and grace for grace…and then even more grace. It is the *hyperperisseuō* grace that ever increases and never ends.

It is grace and grace alone.