

NEW MAN IN CHRIST



FELLOWSHIP
GLOBAL MISSIONS

TOPICAL

New Man in Christ

The Meta-Narrative Context

Lesson 1

As we all know, this world is probably filled with as many different worldviews as there are different races and ethnicities of people. When we talk about someone's worldview, we are talking about the fundamental orientation of their lives. What is at the center of their belief system that is determining their values, beliefs, and outward actions.

It's probably safe to say that for the majority of the world, it's the religion that they follow that is determining their worldview and in turn determines their values, beliefs, and outward actions.

Among us as Christians then, we can even have varying Christian worldviews that are shaped by our view of God and what we think the Christian life is all about. Our view of Who God is, what God is like, and what we think is most important to Him will greatly shape what we believe He expects of us. This will greatly determine our goals and purposes for living the Christian life, as well as how we seek to fulfill those goals and purposes. What we believe about God in terms of Who He is and what is important to Him will also greatly affect our interpretation of God's word and how we seek to apply it to our lives.

As Christians, we can have a "Man centered Christian Worldview", or we can have a "God centered Christian Worldview". It's safe to assume

that the majority of Christianity is preaching and following a man centered Christian worldview, but we are after a “God centered Christian Worldview”.

Obtaining a Proper Christian Worldview

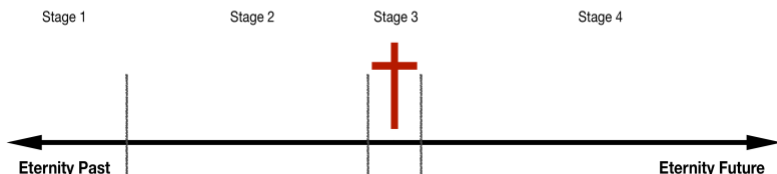
In order for us to obtain a proper Christian worldview that consists of accurate views of God, Who He is, what He is like, what is important to Him, and what He expects of mankind (both as unbelievers and believers) it's extremely important for us to understand that there is a God-centered or God-directed context that this world exists in. We call this God-directed context, “The Meta-Narrative Context”, which means “The Grand Story”, “The Big Picture”.

So, what we are saying is that there is a big picture context, a grand story context that begins with God Himself, is directed and determined by God, and ends with the fulfillment of all of His plans and purposes.

From the word of God, we can see that God has revealed that there are 4 main stages to His directed Grand Story:

1. Stage 1 - “The Planning Stage”
2. Stage 2 - “The Preparation Stage”
3. Stage 3 - “The Fulfillment Stage”
4. Stage 4 - “The Results of the Fulfilled Plan Stage”

The Meta-Narrative Context



Beginning the Context in the Right Place

Like any story, in order to understand the context of the story you cannot begin in the middle. You cannot start at the end, then jump to the beginning, then jump to the middle in some random order. You have to begin at the beginning and follow the whole story through in sequential order. The problem for most Christians though is that they are beginning their view of the Christian context at the wrong place. And when you begin your context at the wrong place, you will be led to many wrong views about God, what He is like, and what is important to Him.

- *Example: Explain what happens to your perspective of God, what He expects of mankind, and how many OT stories will be interpreted when you begin your context in Genesis 1.*

Most Christians begin their context in Genesis 1 with creation. But, there are many passages of scripture that clearly show us that the context of our God-directed grand story actually begins with Himself, the Godhead, in eternity past before the foundations of the earth;

Godhead's Eternality

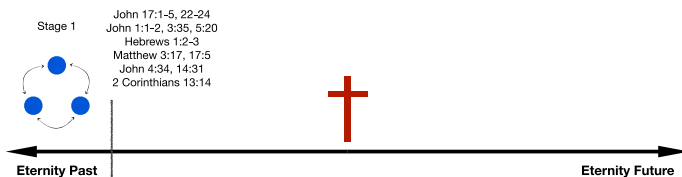
1. *Gen.1:1*
2. *Ps.90:1-2*
3. *Ps.102:12, 26-27*
4. *Isa.40:28*
5. *Rev.1:8; 22:13*

Godhead's Relationship

1. *Jn.17:4-5, 20-26*
2. *1Jn.4:8*

Stage 1

The Planning Stage



The Planning of the Eternal Plan

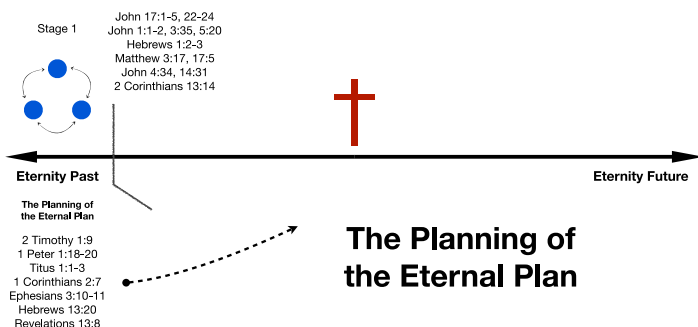
The Planning of the Eternal Plan of Redemption

It's out of these factual realities of who the Godhead is and what Their relationships were like from eternity past that the God-directed grand story flowed out of. That because of Who God is and what He is like, the Godhead was moved to create a Grand Plan, an Eternal Plan that would become the ultimate manifestation of His love, grace, and wisdom.

Stage 1 - The Planning of the Eternal Plan

1. *2Tim.1:9*
2. *1Pet.1:18-20*
3. *Titus 1:1-3*
4. *1Cor.2:7*
5. *Eph.3:10-11*
6. *Heb.13:20*
7. *Rev. 13:8*

Stage 1 The Planning Stage



Putting all of these passages together with the passages above regarding the eternality and relationship of the Godhead, we can clearly see that before God spoke the world and all that it contains into existence, He first predetermined an eternal plan of redemption that would ultimately lead to bringing a fallen human race into the same oneness, intimacy, and love that the Godhead has been experiencing from eternity past. This would be accomplished by grace and through Christ.

God's eternal plan of redemption began in His heart, in eternity past, so we know that it was not a reaction to Adam and Eve's sin. In order for mankind to be redeemed, they needed to be in a place to be redeemed from and this was all part of God's plan that came from His loving relational heart. It was never to be based on the faithfulness of mankind, but only based on the faithfulness and predetermined plan of God. In fact, God was planning on man's unfaithfulness and sin and not their faithfulness and obedience.

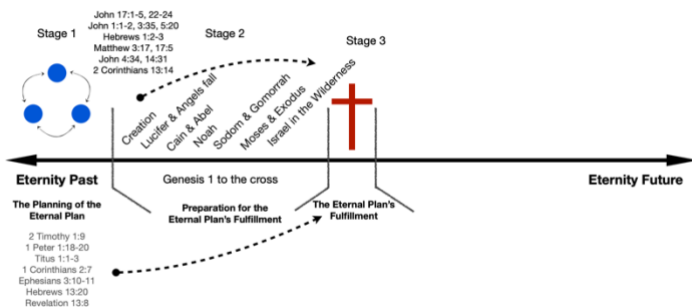
Stage 2 - Preparation for the Eternal Plan's Fulfillment

In between the Godhead planning for the Eternal Plan in stage 1 and Jesus actually coming and fulfilling it in stage 3, a whole host of things needed to be brought into being, the first of which was the world and all that it contains. So, the first thing God does in the preparation stage is to create the place where the eternal plan will be carried out and the

one's for whom it will be carried out for.

Very quickly then, sin enters the world through Lucifer and his follower's rebellion, and then we also have the fall of mankind when Adam and Eve ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Hence, now we have the need for the fulfillment of God's eternal plan of redemption.

As we continue through the Old Testament to the death of Christ then, God is working to show mankind their need for the coming deliver. God is not trying to get mankind to be faithful and obedient. He is not trying to get the Nation of Israel to do the right thing, but He is trying to get them to see their need for Him and rest in His relationship with them and trust in His plan for the coming deliverance and redemption. When we begin to look at each OT story within the context of God's directed grand story, we will begin to see them all from a different perspective.



1. *Adam and Eve's sin - showing them they need God - preparing them for redemption*
2. *Abel's murder - showing him his need for God - preparing him for redemption*
3. *Noah's time - showing the people their need for God - preparing for redemption*
4. *Babel - God uses their sin to set up with the world with every tongue, tribe, and nation.*
5. *Abraham - Manifesting that it's all about God and His purposes and who HE wants to use in His plan.*
6. *Moses and Israel in slavery in Egypt - Very clear physical picture of spiritual truth*
7. *Giving the Law - Proving mankind's sinfulness and therefore need for the fulfillment of God's eternal plan of redemption.*
8. *Building the Tabernacle and all of it's furnishings and sacrifices - All pictures of the Deliverer and the redemption that He will provide.*
9. *Sodom and Gomorrah - Proof that mankind had become exactly what God knew they would become.*

God uses all these accounts to show people their need for the coming deliverer. God is wanting them to trust in relationship with Him and the redemption that He is bringing.

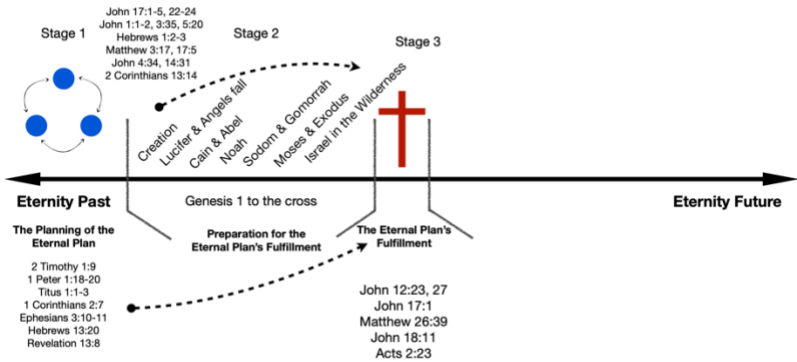
Stage 3 - The Eternal Plan's Fulfillment

Picture the excitement when a husband and wife are expecting a baby soon to be born. This is what it

was like when the time came for Jesus to be crucified on the cross. Certainly, it was painful for both the Father and the Son for they had such a deep and wonderful relationship that had continued on from eternity past. In the garden, Jesus asked if it be possible, that maybe there could be another way, showing the reality of the pain. Ultimately though, He didn't want His own way, but His Father's way and this led to God turning His back on His Son, Jesus while on the cross.

It's our sinfulness that separates us from God. So, when the sin of the world was placed on Jesus as our substitute on the cross, the fact that it caused God to have to separate and turn away from the Son was proof that indeed, ALL of our sin was genuinely placed on Him. Even though this separation was a truly painful process for God the Father and God the Son, they both knew that this RELATIONAL plan of REDEMPTION was the way they had planned it in eternity past - *Acts 2:23*

The fulfillment of God's plan came at the exact hour that God had planned.



1. *John 12:23 & 27*
2. *John 17:1*
3. *Matthew 26:39*
4. *John 18:11*

God had fulfilled His eternal plan and certainly it was painful, but what a glorious day it was because now God could enter into eternal RELATIONSHIP those who believe in Him.

Stage 4 - Results of the Fulfilled Plan

Immediately following Jesus' death, burial, resurrection, and ascension....His fulfillment of the eternal plan of redemption, every event, promise,

doctrine, command, and all instruction that we find in the word of God between Acts 1 and Revelation 22, ALL finds it's relevance in the fact that Jesus fulfilled the eternal plan of redemption (that the Godhead had predetermined from eternity past). Take away the fact of His fulfillment and it all becomes irrelevant, untrue, and impossible.

Remember how we said in stages one and two that none of it was dependent on the faithfulness of mankind but solely on the faithfulness of God? The same is true with this fourth and final stage. ALL the results of Jesus fulfilling the plan are based on the faithfulness of God and not on the faithfulness of mankind or believers. This is exactly why we said that it's so important that we begin our context at the right place and obtain a correct perspective of God and His expectations of mankind through the OT. For that will enable us to now have a correct perspective of God, His expectations of us, and all that we have received as the result of receiving eternal salvation.

God's eternal heart of love and showing itself in RELATIONSHIP and leading to the REDEMPTION of mankind brings with it all kinds of eternal results and benefits. Let's mention just a few for starters.

1. *1 Corinthians 1:30 - We have been placed into Christ Jesus*
2. *2 Corinthians 5:17 & 21 - We are new creations and have been declared righteousness*
*(*Note - Adam's righteousness was the*

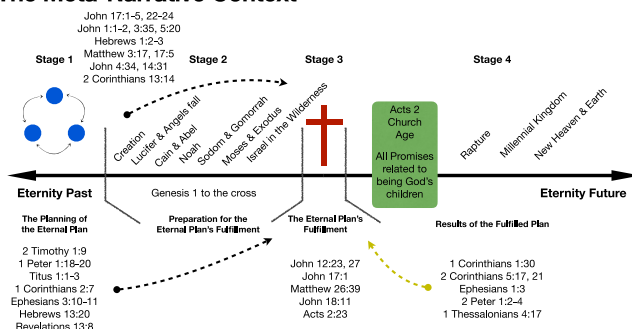
absence of sin. Our righteousness is Jesus Himself).

3. *Ephesians 1:3 - We have been made accepted in the beloved*
4. *2 Peter 1:2-4 - We have been given everything pertaining to life and godliness*
5. *Ephesians 1:11 & 1Peter 1:3-5 - God has predestined for us an eternal inheritance that is reserved in heaven by His divine power.*
6. *1Thessalonians 4:17 - We will spend eternity with Him in the new heavens and the new earth.*

Again, these are results of the fulfillment of God's eternal plan. He wants us to walk in dependency upon Him, confident of His love, enjoying intimacy, fellowship and relationship with Him, which has been His plan from before the foundations of the earth.

He PLANNED it, He PREPARED all things for it's fulfillment, He FULFILLED it, and He produced all the RESULTS from it's fulfillment....It's ALL of Him.

The Meta-Narrative Context



Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out! "For who has known the mind of the LORD? Or who has become His counselor?" "Or who has first given to Him And it shall be repaid to him?" "For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen. -

Rom.11:33-36

New Man in Christ

Lesson 2 - Shallow views of Sinfulness and Salvation

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, **he is a new creation**; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. **2Cor. 5:17***

*Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, **and have put on the new man** who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him.
Col.3:9-10*

If Paul's statements in the above passages are true of every born again believer.....why then did he say this to the Galatians in Gal.3:3 -Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh?

- *Especially when Hebrews says this in **Heb.10:14** - "For by one offering, He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified".*
- *The reason why Paul had to say that to people who were already perfected, is because they were confused about their salvation. They were confused about their spiritual identity.*

Typical View of Salvation and the Christian Life

Jesus went to the cross, shed His blood, and paid for all of our sin. Now that I am a child of God, the goal is for me to “grow spiritually”, grow in my acceptability to God, “walk in a manner that is worthy of my calling” through obedience and faithfulness.

My relationship with God is viewed as being a “transactional” relationship (much like Israel under the law). When I am obedient and doing what is “right” or what I believe God wants me to be doing, then I feel confident in my “rightness” before God and expect Him to be blessing my daily life.

- But, when I am not obedient, am unfaithful, or sinful, then I don’t expect God’s blessings and am not shocked when bad or undesirable circumstances arise in my life.

After many years of desiring and striving to be faithful and obedient though, it becomes clear to many that there is a problem much like the one that Paul describes in Romans chapter 7;

- ***Rom. 7:15*** - *For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do.*
- ***Rom. 7:18-19*** - *For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find. For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice.*

This realization then leads us to searching for a solution for how we can faithfully live the Christian life. Looking for a way to become “empowered” unto faithfulness and obedience, we come up with all kinds of plans, programs, and strategies.

In the same way that misdiagnosing a car’s mechanical problem or a person’s medical problem will lead to trying the wrong solutions, so this is what is happening in our quest for trying to live the Christian life.

The Problem is a Foundational One

The reason why we continue to chase after the wrong solutions is because we have never had a clear and accurate understanding of what constitutes “salvation” and what it really took for us to receive it.

1. Most Christians have a “foggy”, unclear, and shallow view of what had to happen in order for them to become “saved” or receive eternal life.
2. And the reason why we are unclear about what really needed to take place is because we were first unclear about the depth of our sinfulness and depravity. Not only have we NOT fully understood just HOW separated from God we truly were, but more foundationally, we haven’t been clear on WHY.

The tendency for most is to think more highly of themselves than they ought. Because we can all look around and find others who appear to be

committing more sin or “worse” sin than we are, generally, we deceive ourselves into thinking that we aren’t as bad. We aren’t as sinful.

- This shallow view then of thinking that you “aren’t as bad” as others, will by default lead you to a shallow view of what it took for you to receive eternal salvation.
- You view yourself as generally being a good person who commits sin. Therefore, all you needed in order to be saved was to have those sins paid for, and then the help and empowerment to begin sinning less and obeying more.
- This then sets us on the quest of trying anything that we think will provide that empowerment that we are looking for.

Physically speaking, one of the clearest examples that we have in society today of this spiritual deception that we are following, is when people seek to transition into changing their gender.

1. Because society has cheapened and shallowed the definition of what constitutes your gender; meaning, all it takes to change your gender is a different mindset, surgery to change your body parts, and then acting out the corresponding characteristics of the gender that you are transitioning into....and there you go, you are a man or you are a woman...
2. The problem is that it’s not just not a matter of mindset, surgery, and actions that truly determines one’s gender, but it’s your DNA.

And no amount of mindset, surgery, or acting the part can change one's DNA.

So it is with our sinfulness and depravity before God. In the same way that every human being receives from their parents the DNA that determines their race, gender, and ethnicity, so we also receive our “spiritual DNA” or our “spiritual identity” from our parents as well.

- *Example; Cain and Abel born outside of the garden because their parents had already become sinful.*
- When a baby is born to Nigerian parents, how “Nigerian” is the baby at birth? Does it become MORE Nigerian the older it gets or is it as “Nigerian” as it will ever be the moment it's born?
- So it is with our fallen spiritual identity. Every single human being is born as sinful and as separated from God as you can possibly get, before we ever even commit a sin!!!! Why? Because we came from fallen, sinful parents.

Therefore, the Solution must be Foundational

For a man to truly and genuinely become a woman or a woman to truly and genuinely become a man, somehow and some way, the person would have to find a way to change their DNA. They must find a way to change their Y chromosomes into X chromosomes or vice versa.

For a Kenyan person to change their ethnicity and become Mexican, again it would require finding a way to change one's bloodline and DNA.

In the same way, the only way that any and every human being who is born with a fallen, sinful spiritual identity (which is what causes us to be born separated from God and condemned before Him) can become restored to oneness with God and made worthy of spending eternity in His presence, is for us to find a way to have that old fallen spiritual identity removed and exchanged for a new righteous and holy spiritual identity. We have to find a way to change our "spiritual DNA".

According to the world's definition of what constitutes a man or a woman, as long as you continue to look and act the part, you are a man or a woman.

- This is exactly how most Christians are seeking to live the Christian life. They are basing their sense of being a "righteous" Christian, a "holy" Christian, and an "acceptable" Christian on how well they continue to live and act like a righteous, holy, and acceptable Christian.

This watered down, deceptive view of living the Christian life is nothing but pure evil.

- On the "outside", it looks and sounds "godly", "right", and pleasing to God, but, in reality it causes us to place more value and importance upon our own acts of faithfulness and obedience than we place on the blood of Christ.

In our own spiritual growth or the discipleship of other people, we have got to get on the level of spiritual identity. Just as confidence in physical identity determines much of how we act and live, so it is spiritually.

- How do we establish the physical identities of our children?
- It begins with buying them things according to their gender, then very quickly it begins to shape their values. Most boys grow up liking things that girls don't like and vice versa.
- **Gal.3:3** -*Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh?*
- **Col. 2:6-10** - *As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving. Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ. For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.*
- **Phil. 3:2-3** -*Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the mutilation! For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh,*

New Man in Christ

Lesson 3 - The Old Fallen Spiritual DNA/Identity

*And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. **Eph.2:1-3***

*Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh—who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands—that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. **Eph.2:11-12***

*For you were once darkness...**Eph.5:8a***

*For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells....**Rom.7:18a***

Beginning with a Correct Assessment

As was stated in our introductory lesson, one of the main reasons why we have such shallow and cheapened views of what our eternal salvation consists of and what it took for us to receive it, is

because we have a shallow or watered-down view of what our separation from God consisted of and why.

It all began with God's promise to Adam and Eve in **Genesis 2:15-17** - *Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."*

- Adam and Eve's decision - **Genesis 3:4-6** - *Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.*

Rom.6:23 - *For the wages of sin is death.....*

Genesis 3 goes on to begin to describe the results of Adam and Eve's disobedience and begins to show us some of the characteristics of what it meant that they would die.

- First, the human spirit became dead to God which became evident in the corruption of Adam and Eve's mind, will, and emotions towards God - **Genesis 3:7-10** - *Then the eyes of*

both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings. And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?" So he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself."

- Other verses that add clarity and description to the spirit of man becoming dead to God:
- **Gen.6:5** - *Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.*
- **Jer.17:9** - *"The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it?"*
- **1Cor.2:14** - *But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.*
- **Jn.8:44** - *You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his*

own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.

Secondly, because the human spirit became dead/separated from God, unless it were to get reversed somehow, this would lead to mankind receiving an eternal condemnation manifested by an eternal separation from the presence of God.

- ***Jn. 3:18*** -*He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.*
- ***2Thess. 1:8-9*** -*since it is a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you, and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power*
- ***Mt.25:41-46*** -*Then He will also say to those on the left hand, Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.’ “Then they also will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?’ Then He*

- will answer them, saying, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.’ **And these will go away into everlasting punishment**, but the righteous into eternal life.”
- ***Jn.5:28-29*** - Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, **to the resurrection of condemnation**.
 - ***Rev.20:11-15*** - Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. **And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.**

Lastly, the 3rd and final aspect of death that humanity would receive then, would be physical death. That because mankind is spiritually dead to God, not only did he become separated from eternal life and would now receive an eternal

death/separation from God, but he was also separated from the tree of life and would now begin the process of aging and physical death.

You can clearly see this progression and these aspects of death when you look at Genesis chapters 3-6 together.

1. In Genesis 3 we have the rebellion and proof of them becoming dead to God as is evidenced by the corruption of their mind, will, and emotions. This chapter ends with them being cast out of the garden, separated from the tree of life. Because they are dead to God, they will now also die physically.
2. In chapter 4 we have the story of Cain and Abel. Cain brings the wrong sacrifice, kills Abel, and departs from the presence of God rejecting God's offer to turn back to him and bring an acceptable sacrifice. The chapter describes the downward spiral of Cain's descendants and the manifestation of their sinfulness. Chapter 4 proves that mankind had indeed become sinful.
3. Now Read chapter 5. This chapter lists out the genealogy of Adam from Adam to Noah. There are a few different details that are mentioned about each person in the genealogy, but what is the one main characteristic that every single one of them experiences? Death!!
4. Lastly in chapter 6, God gives us a clear physical picture of the 3rd and final result of sin or aspect of death.....eternal judgment/condemnation.

Along with this picture of the seriousness of the wages of sin that all of humanity deserves and receives, in the midst of it all, God in His grace, also gives pictures of hope.

We are talking about mankind becoming sinful. How we became sinful and what it means. But, we can't lose sight of the fact that this is all taking place within the context of the Grand Story!! So, mankind's becoming sinful was already factored into God's plan. God wasn't surprised by it. And secondly, that fact should set us free to rejoice and rest in the fulfillment of the plan.

1. In Genesis chapter 3, right in the midst of God doling out the judgment, in vs.15, He gives the first promise of a coming Deliverer who will deliver humanity out from under satan's authority that their sin had just caused them to be placed under. Secondly, in vs.21, God clothes Adam and Eve with animal skins, which is a picture of God making mankind acceptable unto Himself.
2. In chapter 4 then, even though mankind had become sinful, separated from God, and cast out of the garden, we have the example of God providing a way for man's sin to be "covered" and thereby made acceptable unto God while they waited for the promised Deliverer to come. Secondly, there is the example of Cain. Even though he brought a wrong sacrifice and murdered his own brother, God still extended to him grace and an opportunity to turn back to Him in faith.

3. In chapter 5, in the middle of God listing out the genealogy of Adam, emphasizing the fact that each one received physical death as a part of the wages of sin, there was one man in vs.18-24 that didn't receive physical death; Enoch. It says that "Enoch was no more, for God took him". God was showing that only by His power and divine intervention would it be possible for mankind to be delivered from the wages of sin (Death).
4. In chapter 6, we have the story of Noah and the ark. Amidst God giving a physical picture of the wages of sin (judgment and death), God in His grace provides a way for one man, his family, and all the animals to receive deliverance from the judgment of the flood.

Through these 4 chapters, God is clearly showing us a number of things:

1. How mankind became sinful
2. What the wages of our sinfulness consists of
3. It's absolutely impossible for any human being to deliver himself from any aspect of death.
4. God WANTS mankind to receive deliverance.
5. Only He can provide deliverance
6. He has promised a Deliverer to come and deliver us.

Rom.5:12 - Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned

New Man in Christ
*Lesson 4 - The Justice of God is Fully
Satisfied*

The Problems Reviewed

Our separation from God is the result of our being born “dead to God”. Our sinfulness isn’t just a matter of us committing sin and therefore can become corrected through obedience and the committing of less or no sin. But, it’s much more deeply rooted than that. It’s an issue of the spiritual DNA that we received at birth by being born to sinful parents.

Just as one has no power within himself to change the aspects of their physical identity by changing their DNA, neither do any of us have the ability or power to make ourselves acceptable to God. For this would require a changing of our spiritual identity/DNA which is even MORE impossible.

Therefore, the only way we can receive eternal life in oneness with God is to exchange our fallen sinful spiritual identity with a new righteous and holy spiritual identity that would restore us to oneness with God, making us worthy of spending eternity with Him. A feat that couldn’t be any more impossible for us to accomplish by our weak and beggarly attempts at trying to be good.

God's Divine Intervention Began with a Plan

And that is exactly what God planned to do from before the foundations of the earth.

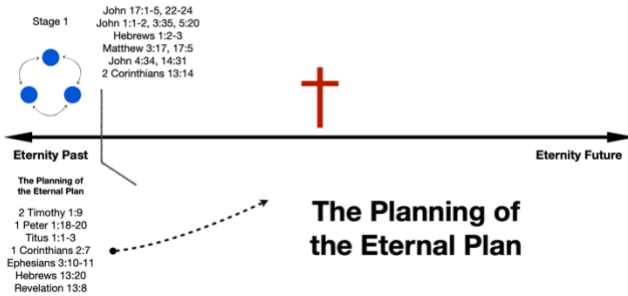
- ***2Tim.1:9 - who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began,***
- ***1Cor.2:7 - But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory,***

This plan, purpose, and wisdom of God that He ordained and bestowed upon us before the foundations of the earth wasn't just about paying for our sins and then helping us go on to sin less and obey more. But, it was going to be the deep needed work of actually recreating us with a new spiritual DNA/identity.

Who mankind would become and what the depth of our sinfulness and separation would consist of, God knew full well from before the foundations of the earth. Therefore, before He ever created a single thing, He first ordains/predestines the ALL ENCOMPASSING (*Heb.2:1-3*) eternal plan of redemption.

From these passages and this visual, we can clearly see some facts that are very important for shaping and determining our view of how mankind's sin problem will be taken care of.

Stage 1 The Planning Stage



1. Before God created a thing, He knew full well the depth of sinfulness, depravity, and separation from Him that mankind would bring upon himself.
2. Secondly, still before creating any part of the physical creation, He first plans and creates an eternal plan of redemption which will enable mankind to become delivered from his deserved eternal separation from God and be made worthy of spending eternity in His presence instead.
3. This plan would be carried out by the very Son of God and would be on the basis of grace, or God giving us what we don't deserve.

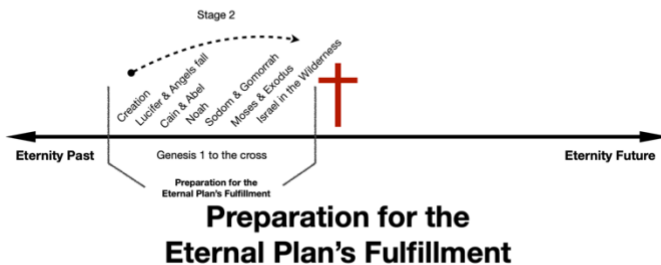
God then Prepares for the Fulfillment of the Plan

Stage 2 of God's plan, "The Preparation Stage" begins with God physically creating the place where

this eternal plan will be carried out, as well as the one's for which it will be carried out for.

- Colossians 1:16 is extremely key in shaping our perspective of God's purposes in all that He chose to create; ***“For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.”***
- *****When you look at each of these OT stories/events in light of Col.1:16, you can clearly see how each one was “created for Him” as part of God’s big picture context**.***
 1. *Lucifer/Angels fall*
 2. *Mankind’s fall*
 3. *Clothing Adam and Eve and separating them from His presence*
 4. *Cain & Abel*

Stage 2 The Preparation Stage



5. *Noah and the flood*
6. *Babel*
7. *Abraham*
8. *Moses & Deliverance from Egypt*
9. *Cross the Red Sea/Wilderness*
10. *Giving the law, tabernacle, and sacrificial system*
11. *Entering the Promised Land*
12. *The life of Jesus/Revelation of Who He was*

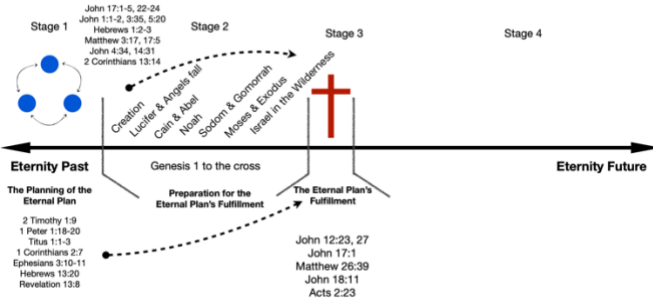
The detail and effort that God puts into His preparations for fulfilling the plan through His interactions, orchestrations, and divine interventions in the life of mankind cannot be missed. All through the OT, God was making a number of foundational truths absolutely crystal clear.

1. His love and heart for mankind to spend eternity with Him. He is after one thing, an eternal relationship!!!
2. The sinfulness and ineptitude of mankind
3. Mankind's salvation and redemption will be carried out by Him and on the basis of grace.
4. His ordained plan of redemption will be ALL ENCOMPASSING, meaning, there will be nothing left up to man to obtain for himself.

Jesus Fulfills the Eternal Plan of Redemption

So, when it became time for Jesus to come and fulfill the eternal plan that had been at the center of

the Godhead's plans and purposes from eternity past, how did He fulfill it and what did He accomplish by fulfilling it?



This is where the meta-narrative context and timeline is so valuable. We have already established the fact that God predestined the plan from eternity past, which we call stage 1 of the plan. Stage 2 then, the preparation stage, one of the main parts of the preparation that God was accomplishing in this stage was in providing all the types and foreshadowings of how the plan will be fulfilled. Here's a list of some of those main events.

1. God promises to send a future Deliverer in Gen.3:15
2. Sacrificing two animals for Adam and Eve - (*1 animal per person*)
3. Abel bringing an acceptable sacrifice and Cain bringing an unacceptable sacrifice.
4. God providing one way of deliverance from the flood for Noah and his family.

5. The ram dying in place of Isaac.
6. The Passover lamb delivering Israel's first born children from the angel of death. - (*1 animal per household*).
7. The whole picture of deliverance through the Exodus.
8. The giving of the law (which proves we are all born dead to God).
9. The tabernacle, furnishings, sacrificial system, priests and their duties. - (*1 animal for the whole nation*).

All of these physical pictures, types, and foreshadowings all point to the fact that the way in which the eternal plan of redemption will be accomplished on our behalf will be through the substitutionary death of the coming Deliverer. And we know that that is exactly what happened.

- *Lev.17:10-11*
- *Heb.9:11-14*
- *Mt.26:26-28*
- *Jn.3:14-17*
- *Jn.1:29*
- *Jn.12:23, 27*
- *Jn.17:1*
- *Mt.26:39*
- *Jn.18:11*
- *Acts 2:23*

At just the right time (after God had ordained the plan and prepared for it's fulfillment) He sent His Son down in the form of sinful man to shed His

blood on our behalf and thereby pay for the sin of the world - *Phil.2:5-8*

The Justice of God is Fully Satisfied

So, when Jesus died on the cross and shed His blood, what really took place?

The Justice of God became FULLY met on our behalf!!!!!!

God is completely holy and righteous. Scripture clearly reveals that our sinfulness is what causes us to be born as separated from God as you can possibly get. God gave us a physical picture of the reality of this truth with the curtain in the tabernacle that separated the holy place from the holy of holies.

The whole picture we get from God and His instructions and purpose in having Israel create the Tabernacle as He did gives us a very clear picture of our spiritual dilemma and God's remedy.

Israel	The Church
God is Absolutely Holy	God is Absolutely Holy
Israel - As sinful as you can possibly be	Us - Born as sinful as you can possibly be
God IS Love	God IS Love
God chose Israel - Gen.12	God chose the Church - Eph.1:4
Their sin caused them to be separated from God	Our sin caused us to be separated from God
God wanted a relationship	God wants a relationship with us

God made a way for His justice to be met so that Israel could fellowship and commune with Him and He could dwell in their midst.	God made a way for His justice to be met so that the church can live in fellowship and communion with Him and we could become indwelt with His Spirit.
The way that He provided was through the shedding of blood to cover their sin.	The way that He provided was in Jesus shedding His blood once and for all for ALL sin!!

“But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.” -Rom. 3:21-26

All of our sin, past present, and future became totally and completely paid for to the point where the justice of God became fully satisfied, thereby removing us from being under His wrath (Rom. 1:18).

The blood of Jesus that was shed as the payment for our sin, so completely paid for ALL of our sin (past, present, and future), THAT:

- The Justice of God became fully satisfied in regards to us -**Rom.5:1-2**
- Our sinfulness can no longer cause us to be separated from Him - **2Cor.5:18**
- We are free to enter His presence and He is now free to receive us. -**Heb.10:19-22**
- The law can no longer condemn us. - **Rom.7:4; Col.2:11-14**
- He is now FREE, by His divine power, to exchange our old fallen spiritual DNA with a new righteous and holy spiritual DNA, thereby giving Him the freedom (in terms of what is just) to bestow upon us “ALL THINGS pertaining to life and righteousness” - **2Pet.1:2-3 - 2Cor.5:17**

“Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh—who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands—that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.” -Eph.2:11-13

New Man in Christ

Lesson 5 - Old Man/Fallen Spiritual Identity Crucified

“Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,” Col.3:9-10

“For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light”. Eph.5:8

“knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.” Rom.6:6

Reviewing the Facts

1. Every human being is born with a fallen spiritual DNA.
2. Being born with a fallen spiritual DNA causes us to be dead to God with a fallen human identity.
3. Because we were born dead to God, our fallen identity consists of things like being sinful, separated from Him, and headed for an eternal separation from Him.
4. Before the foundations of the earth, the Godhead knew exactly all that we would become and ordained an eternal plan of redemption.

5. *The plan would be on the basis of grace and fulfilled by a Savior/Deliverer.*
6. *Jesus came, died on the cross, shed His blood, received all of the punishment for our sin and thereby fulfilled the Godhead's ordained plan.*
7. *The very moment that we, by faith, accept Jesus' substitutionary payment as the payment for our sin, ALL of our sin, past, present, and future becomes paid for in full, and the justice of God becomes fully satisfied on our behalf FOREVER!!!*

Spiritually Crucified

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek" - Rom.1:16

Because all of our sins are paid for and the justice of God is now fully satisfied on our behalves, God becomes "free" (in terms of being just) to now, by His divine power, make us worthy of receiving eternal life by first removing the fallen human spiritual DNA that made us dead to God.

This is where we need to have our understanding of what it took for us to become "saved", increased and expanded. The only TRUE and COMPLETE way that a person could GENUINELY change their ethnicity or their gender, would be by God to do it with His supernatural power and authority. Only He has the power and authority to accomplish either of those things.

So, it is with our spiritual identity. Every human being is born “dead to God” with a fallen, depraved, and condemned spiritual identity, which makes it impossible for us to be declared righteous and receive eternal life, AND we don’t have the power or authority to change it.

But God does and He DID because Jesus’ substitutionary death, burial, resurrection, and ascension fully paid for all of our sin and thereby satisfied the justice of God about us forever. This is Paul’s whole point in Romans 5:1.

“Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,” - Rom.5:1

“Therefore, having been declared righteous.”

The phrase sets the premise for all that follows. Meaning, all that follows is the result of having been justified or declared as righteous.

The phrase ***having been declared*** is an aorist participle, stating that we have been declared righteous. It was accomplished at one time and the results are ongoing. It doesn’t need to ever be accomplished again.

The first thing that Paul says that we have been given as the result of having been declared righteous is:

1. We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ (because the justice of God has

been fully met). That God has fully judged sin by placing it upon Christ as our substitute. That God was so fully satisfied with Christ as our substitute, that He will remain satisfied for eternity. He will never take up the judgment of our sin ever again.

- That God is therefore at rest about us forever!
No matter how poor our understanding of truth, however weak our walk, God is looking at the blood of Christ and not at our sin.

****Important Note*- Before Jesus went to the cross and shed His blood and paid for our sin in full, even though God would have had the power to recreate us with a new spiritual DNA, He would have been unjust in doing so.***

Now that Jesus has paid for our sin in full, if God didn't (by His divine power) recreate us with a new spiritual DNA, He would be equally unjust!!!

With the justice of God being fully satisfied on our behalf by the blood of Christ, the very first thing that God does is to eradicate the fallen spiritual DNA that we were born with. In Romans chapter 6, Paul refers to this as the “crucifixion of our old man”.

“knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.” -

Rom.6:6

Then again in Galatians 2:20 he refers to the same thing - *“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which 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*

And again - *“Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,” Col.3:9-10*

“In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ,” -Col.2:11

Also - *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.” - 2Cor.5:17*

All of these verses point to the exact same thing that took place in our lives spiritually the very moment that we accepted Jesus' blood as the payment for our sin. God crucified, destroyed, eradicated, removed our old fallen spiritual DNA and the identity that went with it.

- A physical example/picture of this spiritual truth can be seen in God's deliverance of Israel from slavery in Egypt.

Israel	The Church
Slaves in Egypt - It had become their identity. Slaves gave birth to slaves.	Slaves of sin - It was our identity. Sinful humans give birth to sinful humans.
God was not surprised by their slavery - Gen.15:13-16	God was not surprised by our sinfulness - 2Tim.1:9
God raised up a deliverer - Moses	God raised up a Deliverer - Jesus
God delivered Israel from the bondage of slavery by sending Moses to lead them out of Egypt.	God delivered us from the bondage of being sinful by sending Jesus to shed His blood and pay for our sin.
By the power of God, He parted the Red Sea, led Israel through it and to the other side, and closed up the waters on their enemy thereby cutting them off from their old life of slavery in Egypt.	By the power of God, He crucified/destroyed/eradicated our "old man" (fallen spiritual DNA) thereby cutting us off from who we were in Adam and the old identity that came with it.
Israel no longer had to live as slaves of Egypt.	We no longer have to live as slaves of sin - Rom.6:6
Once God closed up the Red Sea, Israel couldn't have returned to their old life of slavery in Egypt even if they had wanted to.	Once God cut off our old man, it's equally impossible for us to return again (spiritually) to who we were in Adam.
Once Israel was delivered, and their old life of bondage was cut off, they became a nation with a new identity.	Once our sin was paid in full, and our old man was crucified, we too became a "new man" with a new spiritual identity.

God's whole purpose for delivering Israel, was for the purpose of bringing them into relationship with Himself - Ex.19:3-4	God's whole purpose for delivering and saving us, is for the purpose of bringing us into an eternal relationship with Himself - 2Cor.5:17-18
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1. Jesus paid for ALL of our sin
2. The justice of God was fully met
3. We are delivered/redeemed from the bondage of being sinful
4. God, by His divine power crucifies our "old man" and eradicates our old fallen spiritual DNA.

Next, He recreates us with a new spiritual DNA, thereby giving us a new spiritual identity!!!!

New Man in Christ

Lesson 6 - New Man/Recreated with a New Spiritual Identity

Review

1. Jesus paid for ALL of our sin
2. The justice of God was fully met
3. We are delivered/redeemed from the bondage of being sinful
4. God, by His divine power crucifies our “old man” and eradicates our old fallen spiritual DNA. No longer dead to God.
5. Now, God by His divine power recreates us spiritually with a new spiritual DNA. Now we are alive unto God and dead to sin.

Not only did we need to get rid of the old spiritual identity, but we also needed a new spiritual identity that would make us worthy of communing with a Holy God. To think that we could ever make ourselves worthy of oneness and communion with Him through our own works or effort is to grossly devalue His holiness.

“and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.” Eph.4:24

- Notice that it says here that we already have put on the new man which WAS CREATED “according to God”.

- That word for “created” is the same word for God creating all of the world. It means to form, shape, to completely change or transform.
- In the same way that He, by His divine power, created the world and all that it contains, so He by His divine power recreated us spiritually with a new spiritual identity that is “according to God” or in the “image of God”.
- It was done by Him and never needs to be done again.

*“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “The just shall live by faith.” **Rom.1:16-17***

*“For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.” **1Cor.1:18***

*“Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection,” **Rom.6:4-5***

“Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more.

Death no longer has dominion over Him. For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Rom.6:8-11

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.” 2Cor.5:17

“For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation.” Gal.6:15

“and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.” Eph.4:24

“Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,” Col.3:9-10

The Deep work of God Continues

For years, the view that many of us have of our salvation is something like this, Jesus’ blood paid for ALL of our sin, the justice of God being fully met, now God is free to no longer hold our continued sinning against us. That we are now accepted by God simply because His justice has been met and He no longer is obligated to hold our sin against us.

This view of our salvation portrays God as “reluctantly” accepting us. We are really not acceptable to Him (for we continue to sin), but He has to accept us because Jesus’ blood paid for all of our sin.

These facts are true; Jesus did pay for all of our sin, the justice of God is fully satisfied, and God does now have to accept us, but it’s not JUST because our sins have been paid for and that’s all that’s been done.

- The reality is that God has done a much much deeper and much much more personal and intimate work that goes to great length to show His heart for us and that His acceptance of us is not “reluctant” but has been done according to His sovereign will and predetermined purposes from before the foundations of the earth.
- Our biggest problem wasn’t just that we were sinful, but we were born DEAD to GOD which would have resulted in us spending an eternity separated from the presence of God.
- And God didn’t just send His Son down to pay for our sin so that we can become good people. But He sent His Son to pay for our sin so that we can be made ALIVE to Him and thereby made worthy of spending eternity in His presence.
- He didn’t just send His Son down to pay for our sin so that we can no longer be condemned. But He sent His Son down so that we can be made “reconciled unto Him”. So that we can be made worthy of being brought into the eternal

fellowship and communion that the Trinity has had throughout all eternity.

“Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Rom.6:11

“And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins,” Eph.2:1

“But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),” Eph. 2:5

“And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses,” Col.2:13

“But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.” 1Cor.15:20-22

What does it mean to be Alive to God?

We all know that Adam was originally created alive to God, but through choosing to disobey God’s command and eating from the tree of the knowledge

of good and evil, became sinful by receiving a sin nature that began to get passed on to every future generation, thereby causing every human of every generation to be born dead to God.

*“Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:” **Rom.5:12***

We also know that that death had 3 main aspects to it:

1. Spiritual death - Dead to God
2. Physical death
3. Eternal death

The very moment that we accept the blood of Jesus as the payment for our sin, we become “made alive” in every aspect.

- Our old man/fallen human nature becomes crucified/removed and we are given a “new nature”, “new man”, that results in us receiving a new spiritual identity.

Old Man/Fallen Nature	New Man
Given to us by Adam	Given to us by Jesus
Born dead to God	Reborn alive to God
Born Enemies of God	Made the Children of God
Made us Sinful	Makes us Righteous
Born with the Lucifer Mindset. Cannot experience fellowship with God.	Given the Mind of Christ. Able to fellowship and commune with the Godhead.
Born without God, without an inheritance, without the Holy Spirit, and without any future hope.	God is our loving Heavenly Father Who promises us EVERY spiritual blessing, and eternal inheritance, and an inexhaustible hope that is beyond our comprehension.
Physical death leads to Eternal Death/Separation	Physical death leads to Eternal Life/into God's Presence.

In Adam, because we were born dead to God, we've already talked about all that we were, how we acted, and what we were receiving as the result.

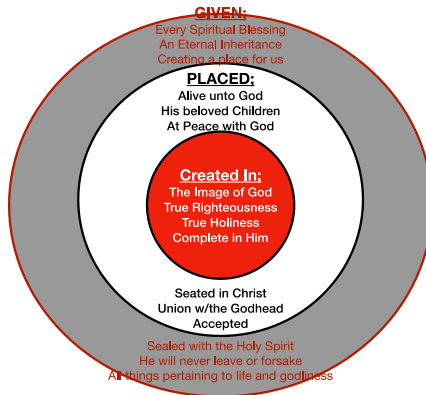
But, now that we have been recreated spiritually as a new man who is now Alive unto God, along with it comes a whole host of new rights and entitlement that belong to all who become the children of God!!!

New Man in Christ

Lesson 7 - The New Man's Identity or New Position in Christ

Eph.4:24 - *and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.*

- In our last lesson, we highlighted from this verse the fact that it was God Who created us with a new spiritual inner man, and that He created us in His image, which is:
- “In true righteousness and holiness”. That this is NOT something that we do through obedience, but something that HE HAS done through His power!!!



It's these first two attributes that characterize our new man that makes all the other facts, characteristics, and promises true of us.

Created in Him

“and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.” Eph.4:24

“Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,” Col.3:9-10

Because He, by His divine power, recreated us according to His image in true righteousness and holiness, therefore we have been placed into a new position and relationship with God.

Placed into

“Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord” Rom.6:11

“For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.” The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,” Rom.8:15-16

“But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, “Abba, Father!” Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and

if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.”

Gal.4:4-7

“Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,”

Rom.5:1

“But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,” Eph.2:4-6

“I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.” Jn.17:20-23

“having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.”

Eph.1:5-6

Because God recreated us by His divine power in true righteousness and holiness, that resulted in us

receiving a new position of eternal relationship with Him as His beloved children.

...AND...

Because we have received this new eternal position and relationship as His beloved children, it has also resulted in us being given the “rights and entitlement” that come from being made the very children of God.

GIVEN: Because we are His Children

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,” Eph.1:3

“In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will,” Eph.1:11; 1Pet.1:3-5

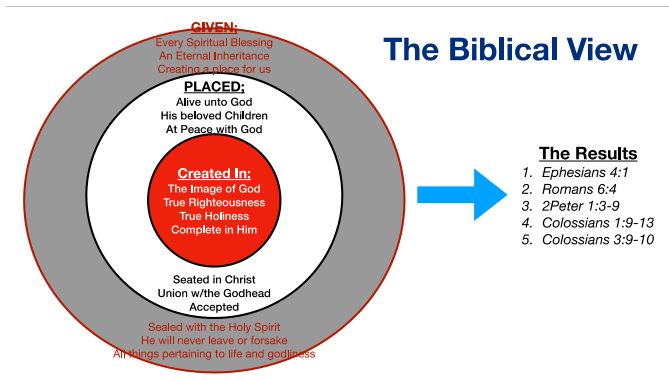
“Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.” Jn.14:1-3

“In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also,

having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.” Eph.1:13-14

“Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.” Heb.13:5

“Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,” 2Pet.1:2-3

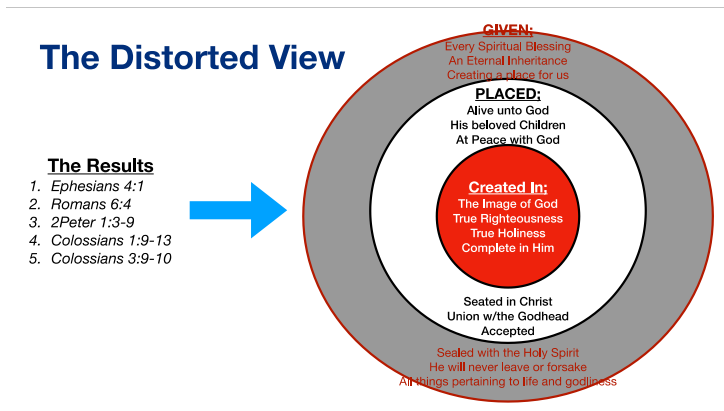


Note: This view works from the inside out.

This then leads to the 7th lesson on how we get to the place where, who we have been recreated to be

spiritually begins to become lived out in our daily lives more and more.

The diagram above is God's design for how it takes place. The diagram below is NOT how it works, but is the typical way that people are taught and disciplined in churches to live the Christian life.



Note: This view works from the outside in.

New Man in Christ

Lesson 8 - How our Identity translates into Daily Living

In our first few lessons, we made a lot of comparisons between our spiritual identity and various aspects of our physical identity, like our gender, race, and ethnicity. We can all look at our daily lives and see how most of our daily decisions, actions, and reactions to things are all very much determined by our physical identity. Examples:

1. How we dress
2. What language we speak
3. What food we eat
4. What kinds of activities we like
5. Various roles in the family and home

In the same way that our physical identity determines a lot of the daily decisions we make and things that we do, so this is how God has designed for us to live the Christian life.

- So, this begs the question then, how do we as humans become so established in the reality of our physical identity that it absolutely governs every aspect of our lives without us even realizing it?

There are different Stages of Development

Stage 1 - Newborn

In America, before a child is even born the parents often find out what the gender of the child is going to be, and based on the gender begin preparations for its birth.

- If it's going to be a boy, they will paint the baby's room blue or pink if it's going to be a girl.
- They begin to buy blue clothing or pink clothing and toys for boys or toys for girls.
- Blue pacifiers or pink pacifiers....almost everything they buy will be for one gender or the other.

Once the baby is born then, it's born with a gender, a race, and an ethnicity that is all determined by the blood and DNA that came from its parents.

- Immediately, we dress it in boy's clothes or girl's clothes.
- Immediately we begin to speak our heart language to the baby.
- We continue to either buy gifts for boys or girls according to our culture.
- Then after a few months, we begin to feed it some of our ethnic foods.
- In this stage, at birth, the child is as male or female, or black or white, or Kenyan or Mexican as it will ever be. But, it's not a man or a woman yet.
- At this stage, what are our expectations of the baby in terms of its ability to live out its identity?
ZERO

Do you see what is happening here? Before the child is even born, we have already begun to prepare for the establishment of its identity.

Stage 2 - Toddler/Child

As the child becomes old enough to exert its own will by walking, talking, and making basic decisions, very quickly we begin to see values take shape and become revealed through the child's decisions.

- In general, boys will gravitate towards things that boys like, value, and enjoy.
- Girls will tend to gravitate towards different things that they tend to like, value, and enjoy.
- Slowly but surely, the child's identity is beginning to become manifested more and more through the decisions that it makes, the things that it does, and the values that it shows.
- In this stage we become more deliberate in our efforts to establish the identity. We take boys to events that help shape them into becoming men and girls to events that help shape them into becoming women.
- We begin to give them responsibility around the home according to their gender.
- At this stage, what are our expectations in terms of the child manifesting a mature manifestation of its physical identity? We expect it to manifest a "child's version" of its physical identity.

Stage 3 - Adolescent

As children continue to develop into this age and stage, so their beliefs and values become more defined and more clearly manifested through their decisions and actions.

- Their bodies are developing, looking more like men and women, which also translates into how they dress and take care of themselves.
- We continue to be deliberate in terms of responsibility that we pass on to them, as the older they get the more responsibility we give them.
- Beliefs begin to become more developed, and values change, which in turn results in more mature actions.
- Our expectations of them also grow accordingly in terms of them living out more and more of a mature manifestation of their personhood.

Stage 4 - Adulthood

At this stage, the person has reached full maturity in terms of the development of their body, as well as the living out of their identity.

- It's interesting to note, that in every stage, each person is as male, female, black, white, and ethnic as they will ever be.
- What changes through each stage of development is, how the person's identity becomes manifested and what it looks like.

- At this stage, we have been so convinced of our physical identity for so many years, and our beliefs and values that come from the establishment of our physical identity, that we make many many daily decisions without even really thinking about it.

This is exactly how God has designed for us to live the Christian life. That we become as convinced of our new spiritual identity as we are of our physical identity.

Living Life according to our Spiritual Identity

*“What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? -- Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be -- also in the likeness of his resurrection: Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin.” **Rom. 6:1-7***

“As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: Rooted and built up in him,

and established in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving. Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. For in him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:” Col.2:6-10

“Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.” 2Pet.1:2-4

Bottom line, these passages suggest a 3-step process that will enable us to live the Christian life according to our spiritual identity.

1. First, are the facts of what God accomplished in us spiritually by the blood of Christ and His divine power.
2. Second, is as Col.2 states, “*built up in Him and established in the faith as you have been taught*”. We must become convinced of who we are in Christ through the Holy Spirit and God’s word.

3. Lastly, as 2 Peter states, it's faith in "*the great and precious promises*" that will enable us to become "*partakers of the divine nature*".

We play no part in step 1. As has been laid out in the earlier lessons, the work of exchanging our old fallen human nature/identity with a new righteous and holy nature/identity was done by God Himself the very moment that we accepted Christ as our Savior.

Step 2 is where the real issue lies. There are 3 main principles that we faithfully follow when it comes to establishing our children's physical identity, that we DO NOT follow when it comes to establishing people's spiritual identity.

1. First, we begin early. Like was stated, we begin preparing for this before the child is even born. What if we waited until our children were 12 or 15 years old before we began to establish their identity? It would be a much much harder process.
- This is one reason why it's so hard for us to come to believe that we really are who God says that He has created us. Most of us have been striving to obtain a sense of righteousness, holiness, and acceptance through our own efforts because, as soon as we got saved, the establishment of our new spiritual identity was not the focus of the teaching and discipleship that we received.
2. Second, is consistency. What if for the first 15 years of a child's life, some days we dressed them like a boy and other days dressed them

like a girl? Some birthdays we bought them toys for boys and other birthdays toys for girls? What if we were inconsistent in our message to them as to whether we believed they were a boy or a girl? There would be much confusion as to who they really are, and trying to begin the process of helping them to believe which they REALLY are would be much harder.

- This is exactly what most modern-day teaching and discipleship looks like. There are times of stating or listing out who people are in Christ, but far more often people are taught and led “to do” in order “to be”. The message and focus that people receive in discipleship is extremely inconsistent.
3. Third, is frequency. When establishing the physical identity of our children, not only is our message and focus consistent, but the younger they are the more frequent it is as well. The younger they are, the more times we will have in which we need to remind them of who they are. Every father has probably at one time had to tell their sons, “As a boy, you never ever hit a girl.”
- Frequency is greatly lacking when it comes to establishing one’s spiritual identity. Teaching and commanding people to obey and do in order to be is way way way more frequently and consistently taught.

Step 3 then is “faith”. Simply, faith in the facts. To the degree that someone has been taught who they are in Christ early (in their Christian life),

consistently (early on in their Christian life), and frequently (early on in their Christian life), to that degree will it become more natural for them to live out their Christian lives BECAUSE of who they are in Christ, rather than continuing to be confused about who they are and think that they have to do in order to become.

- Another very extremely important part in having one's faith in the facts established, is the role and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

"I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you. All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you." **Jn.16:12-15**

"But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him." But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from

God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.” 1Cor.2:9-12

If the focus of our teaching and discipleship is according to the content and principles that have been laid out in these lessons, then we can be absolutely confident in the Holy Spirit that He will faithfully work to establish people in the faith.

BUT, when we are trusting the Holy Spirit to use our works-based and obedience-focused teaching and discipleship to establish people in the faith, we will become greatly disappointed. For our teaching will not be in line with the role and purpose of His ministry in the church age.

New Man in Christ

Lesson 9 - The Pattern from God's Word

This order of identity first, daily action second or the fact that our decisions and actions flow out of our identity, God has given us clear examples of in His word. These examples are in the form of some of the daily lives of people that we have recorded in the OT, and also in the form of how the content of some of the epistles are laid out in the NT.

The Example of Adam and Eve

The first example from the OT that we have is in the lives of Adam and Eve. We can see a big difference in the daily living out of their lives when we compare their lives before the fall and after the fall.

Before the Fall	After the Fall
Living in the Garden	Living outside of the Garden
Naked and NOT ashamed	Naked and ashamed
Didn't try to clothe themselves	Tried to clothe themselves
Not afraid of God	Afraid of God
Fellowshipped/walked with God	Hid from God
Blameless	Blame shifting

What was it that caused such drastic differences in their perspectives, decisions, and actions? It was the

undeniable and drastic changes that took place in the changing of their spiritual identity.

The Example of Israel

The second example that we have from scripture is with the nation of Israel. Again, we can see a big difference in how they lived, acted and what they experienced as a nation when they were slaves in Egypt compared to when they were free in the promised land.

Slaves in Egypt	Free in the Promised Land
Slaves	Free
Ruled by the Egyptians	Ruled themselves
Forced to labor for others	Labored for themselves
Not free to worship God	Free to worship God
Possessed (by others)	Possessors

What was it that determined such drastic differences in Israel's perspective, decisions, and experiences? It was their identity as slaves and their identity as a free nation.

Israel had been slaves for 400 years! It had become their identity. Slaves gave birth to slaves. If you were born an Israelite, you were born a slave. How did they as a nation go from being slaves for 400 years to being able to believe and live as a free nation in a new land?

- By God Himself dramatically and miraculously taking them through an undeniable process that

- enabled them to see and believe that they were no longer slaves of the Egyptians.
- God led them out of Egypt, through the Red Sea, and then closed up the Sea on their enemies, thereby giving them physical proof that their old life of slavery in Egypt was now cut off.

God has done the exact same thing with us. Because of the blood of Christ, the divine power of God has miraculously crucified/cut off our old fallen spiritual identity and recreated us with a new spiritual identity that makes us free to now live as righteous, holy, and acceptable children of God, because that is now who we are!!!

Paul's Progression through Romans

One of the clearest examples from the epistles of God's designed order of establishing one's spiritual identity first and then godly action lived out as the result, is from the book of Romans.

- I. Rom.1:1-14 - Introduction
- II. Rom.1:15-17 - Key passage for the whole book.
 - A. Vs.15 - Why would Paul want to preach the "gospel" to an already existing church? To people who were already saved? Because he is not just talking about justification.
 - B. Vs.16 - The gospel is "power of God unto salvation". Because our problem was one of spiritual identity, ONLY the power of God could recreate us with a new one.

- C. Vs.17 - The only way to receive the righteousness of God is through the fulfillment of the gospel.
- III. Rom.1:18-3:20 - Proof that every single human being is in need of obtaining the salvation that can only be provided through the gospel (regardless of how good or how bad you are).
- IV. Rom.3:21-4:25 - Faith in Christ alone is the only way to obtain the righteousness of God.
- V. Rom.5- Begins the results of having obtained the righteousness of God.
 - A. Vs.1 - Peace with God
 - B. Vs.2 - Standing in grace
 - C. Vs.2 - Rejoice in a glorious hope.
 - 1. Vs.3-5 - The conditional/daily effects of being at peace with God, standing in grace, with a glorious eternal hope.
 - D. Vs.6-11 - We received this all undeservingly, by grace, and through Christ. It wasn't based on anything we did for ourselves that has uncertainty attached to it.
 - E. Vs.12-21 - Paul establishes the fact that the basis for both, our sinfulness in Adam and our salvation in Christ are at the spiritual identity level and not at the surface outward level.
- VI. Rom.6 - Paul begins to prove to us how we received a new spiritual identity.
 - A. Vs.1-11 by the very fact that the power of God has crucified, eradicated, removed our "old man" or our old fallen spiritual identity.
 - B. Vs.12-14 - It isn't until Paul gets to vs.12 in chapter 6 that he gives any instruction on

how we are to live. Clearly it comes after laying the foundation of the facts of our new spiritual identity and how we received it.

This same progression that Paul lays out here in the book of Romans, we see glimpses of in the layout of the other epistles as well. Most epistles always begin with spiritual positional/identity truths before moving on to instruction in how to live. Because this is who you are, therefore, live like this.....

New Man in Christ

Lesson 10 - The Pattern from God's Word Continued

In our last lesson, we looked at 3 examples from God's word where we can clearly see that it's identity that determines action and not vice versa. We looked at Adam and Eve and how they lived before the fall compared to after the fall. Then we looked at the nation of Israel and how they lived as slaves in Egypt compared to when they were a free nation in Canaan. Then we looked at the way in which the Holy Spirit led Paul to lay out the progression of teaching within the book of Romans. Namely, that Paul first establishes the fact that because the blood of Christ and power of God has given us a new spiritual identity, therefore we are called to live a new life with different actions.

In this lesson we are going to continue to look at other passages that follow this same progression.

Example from the Book of Ephesians

The way that Ephesians is laid out:

1. Teaching of identity truths
2. Praying the Holy Spirit will convince regarding the identity truths
3. Exhorting to walk according to who they are.

Ephesians 1 begins with Paul first reminding us of what we have been given, who we have been made

to be, and where we have been placed spiritually by the blood of Christ and power of God.

*“Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God,
To the saints who are in Ephesus, and faithful in
Christ Jesus:*

*Grace to you and peace from God our Father and
the Lord Jesus Christ.*

Redemption in Christ

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus
Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual
blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as He
chose us in Him before the foundation of the world,
that we should be holy and without blame before
Him in love, having predestined us to adoption as
sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the
good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the glory
of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the
Beloved.*

*In Him we have redemption through His blood, the
forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His
grace which He made to abound toward us in all
wisdom and prudence, having made known to us the
mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure
which He purposed in Himself, that in the
dispensation of the fullness of the times He might
gather together in one all things in Christ, both
which are in heaven and which are on earth—in
Him. In Him also we have obtained an inheritance,
being predestined according to the purpose of Him
who works all things according to the counsel of
His will, that we who first trusted in Christ should
be to the praise of His glory. In Him you also*

trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.” Eph.1:1-14

After laying the foundation of the reality of who we are, what we’ve been given, and where we’ve been placed because of our new spiritual identity, Paul states that he is praying the God will open our eyes to become convinced of the reality of these truths.

“Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power”.
Eph.1:15-19

In an effort then convince us even further of the reality of the fact that we have indeed received a new spiritual identity, in chapter 2, Paul goes back and forth comparing our old spiritual identity with the new spiritual identity that we’ve been given by the blood of Christ and power of God.

Old Spiritual Identity

And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. Eph.2:1-3

New Spiritual Identity

“But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.” Eph.2:4-10

Old Spiritual Identity

“Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh—who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands—that at that time you were without Christ,

being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.” Eph.2:11-12

New Spiritual Identity

“But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.

Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.” Eph.2:13-22

Then in an effort to further convince us of the reality of these biblical truths, in chapter 3, Paul reminds his hearers of how he received the knowledge and understanding of these truths and thereby the authority of this teaching. Namely that it

came from God Himself, therefore there is not one bit of uncertainty associated with it.

The Authority of Paul's Message

“For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for you Gentiles— if indeed you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which was given to me for you, how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already, by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ), which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets: that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel, of which I became a minister according to the gift of the grace of God given to me by the effective working of His power.” Eph.3:1-7

The Content of Paul's Message

“To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ; to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places, according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we

have boldness and access with confidence through faith in Him.” Eph.3:8-12

Second Prayer for becoming Convinced of Identity Truth

“Therefore I ask that you do not lose heart at my tribulations for you, which is your glory. For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height— to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.” Eph.3:13-21

It isn’t until after Paul spends the first 3 chapters of Ephesians skillfully seeking to convince his hearers of the reality of their new spiritual identity that he gives the first bit of biblical instruction in terms of how we are live in chapter 4. It’s extremely significant to notice how chapter 4 begins.

Live According to Who You Are

“I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.” Eph.4:1-6

Paul’s instruction is NOT a command to live a certain way or do certain things in order to be made “worthy”. But, he is simply exhorting his hearers to live out who they are. This is exactly how we live our physical lives. Everyday, we live our lives in light of our gender, race, and ethnicity. We don’t do anything to BE male or female, we don’t do anything to BE Mexican or Nigerian (or whatever our ethnicity is), we don’t do anything to BE black or white or Asian or Native American. This is who we are.

That is what Paul is saying in chapter 4 vs.1, live according to who you are. So, in order to live according to who we are, it all comes down to knowing and believing who we really are. And who we truly are, has been determined by the blood of Christ and power of God and NOT by what we do or how we act.

New Man in Christ

Lesson 11 - The Pattern from God's Word Continued

In the last two lessons, we looked at two of the main books where the Holy Spirit inspired the author (the Apostle Paul) to structure the whole book by first establishing spiritual identity before exhorting any action.

Even though the other epistles may not be laid out in this way as clearly as Romans and Ephesians are, still we can see glimmers of this same truth and structure in some of the other letters.

1Corinthians

Paul, called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God, and Sosthenes our brother, To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all who in every place call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Spiritual Gifts at Corinth I thank my God always concerning you for the grace of God which was given to you by Christ Jesus, that you were enriched in everything by Him in all utterance and all knowledge, even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you, so that you come short in no gift, eagerly waiting for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will also confirm you to the end, that you may be blameless in the day of our

Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. 1Cor.1:1-9

Paul is writing the Corinthian church because of all of the problems and sin that he has been told is going on in the church. Notice how he begins and what his focus is in the first 9 verses. He first reminds these carnal believers of their spiritual identity.

1Cor.1:10-17 - Division and Pride

The first sin that Paul addresses is the division and pride that was existing among them. Different one's were priding themselves on who they were claiming to be following. Notice Paul's solution to this in vs.18-31.

- Paul reminds them of the gospel and what receiving it was based on....not on being proud and self-exalting, but on recognizing our “nothingness” and unworthiness. It's the gospel then that gives us a new identity in Christ and not our pride and giftedness.

1Cor.2:6-16

Paul reminds the Corinthian believers that the gospel is the hidden wisdom of God that He ordained before the ages, but has revealed now and has even given us the Holy Spirit for the purpose of “revealing to us the things that we have been freely given by God”.

This means that, one of the main reasons why we have even been given the Holy Spirit is for the purpose of Him convincing us of our new spiritual identity. This is exactly what Paul says the Spirit has done in **Rom.8:12-17**.

1Cor.3:1-4

“And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ. I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able to receive it, and even now you are still not able; for you are still carnal. For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men? For when one says, “I am of Paul,” and another, “I am of Apollos,” are you not carnal?”

Notice what Paul is stating here.....You ARE spiritual people.....this is really who you are, BUT, because of your carnality, I can't speak to you according to who you are. Instead, I have to take you back to the elementary principles of God's word, because you are not living according to your new spiritual identity.

Gal.3:26 - 4:7

“For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the

promise. Now I say that the heir, as long as he is a child, does not differ at all from a slave, though he is master of all, but is under guardians and stewards until the time appointed by the father. Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world. But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

Paul, in writing to the Galatian church that was being deceived back into placing themselves under the law, reminds them that, under the law and before salvation, they were slaves. But, now in Christ and by grace, they have become sons. They have received a new spiritual identity, therefore, because of who they are, it's not fitting to return to dependence upon their law keeping.

Col.2:8 - 3:11

In an effort to show the Colossians how absurd it was for them to return to following the law and observing special feast days according to the law, Paul reminds them of their "spiritual circumcision" or "co-crucifixion" that removed their old fallen spiritual DNA and then were recreated by God with a new spiritual DNA.

2Pet.1:2-4

“Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.”

Here, Peter clearly shows the order. First, we have the fact that God, by His divine power has given us all things that pertain to life and godliness. He has called us unto Himself to His glory and virtue (made us new creations), and along with that has given us great and precious promises. It’s living our lives then, by faith in the facts of the great and precious promises that will enable us to live out our new divine nature.

He then goes on to show us what living out our divine nature will look like; **1Pet.1:5-9** *“But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.”*

If we are walking in these things that are in line with who we are as a new creation, it means that the

great and precious promises are bearing fruit in our lives. BUT, if these things are not characterizing our lives, then it means we shortsighted, blind, and have forgotten that we have received a new spiritual identity.

Clearly, we have overwhelming evidence and proof from the epistles that the way in which God has designed for us to live the Christian life, is first to exhort us to know and believe who we have become spiritually by blood of Christ and power of God, and that faith in those facts will motivate and empower us to live in light of who we are. No where do we ever see Him telling us to do in order to be.

New Man in Christ

Lesson 12 - Writing out Your Own Re-creation Story

In preparation for our last class, in light of all that we have studied over the last 11 lessons, in your own words, write out your own re-creation story. Please include the answers to the following questions:

1. What was your spiritual identity at birth and what were some of its main characteristics?
2. Are you still who you were spiritually, or have you received a new spiritual identity, and if so, how did you receive it?
3. Because of your new spiritual identity, name as many things as you can find in God's word that He says are now true of you.
4. In the daily living out of our Christian lives, what do our lives look like when we are confident in the reality of our new spiritual identity, and what do they look like when we either don't know or forget?
5. If a fellow believer shared with you their struggle to live the Christian life and asked you to disciple them, what would be the focus and content of your discipling them?

Please come to our last class prepared to discuss your story in light of these questions.

