



## New Creation Oct 29: The Gospel Changes Everything

**Series Summary:** As a believer in Jesus, all who have professed Christ should know you are saved by faith in Him, with a confidence of eternal security. Yet, for many, there still lies a tension between what is read about their faith in the scriptures compared to what they see play out in their habits and day-to-day living. It's possible that many still struggle with a disconnect between their understanding of the Gospel in faith and its practical application. To fully understand the difference the Gospel has the potential to make in every area of our lives.

**Big Idea:** The Gospel changes everything. Apart from God, we are spiritually dead in our sins. Salvation brings a complete, immediate spiritual rebirth. In Christ, we are a new creation.

**Schedule:**

- Live teaching
- Small group

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## LIVE TEACHING

**Series Lead in:** As a believer in Jesus, all who have professed Christ should know you are saved by faith in Him, with a confidence of eternal security. Yet, for many, there still lies a tension between what is read about their faith in the scriptures compared to what they see play out in their habits and day-to-day living. It's possible that many still wrestle with a disconnect between what they know about

the Gospel in faith, compared to their understanding of the Gospel in its application. To fully understand the difference the Gospel makes in every area of our lives.

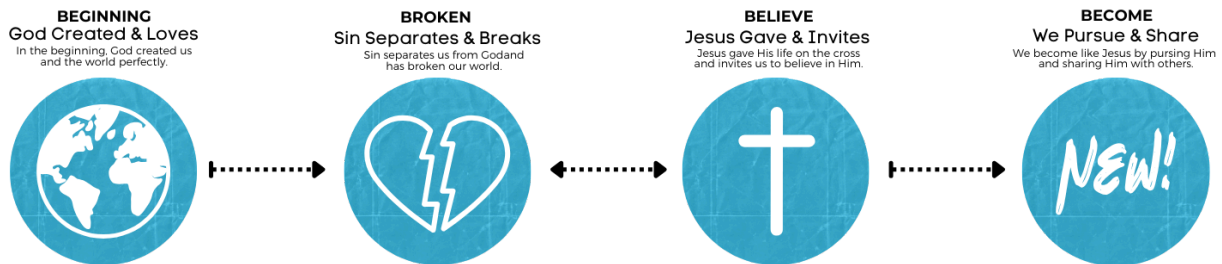
For some, maybe this “disconnect” comes from either guilt or the perception that our lifestyle patterns haven’t quite yet aligned with what we read in scripture. A passage that comes to mind is 2 Corinthians 5:17.

**2 Corinthians 5:17** Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, He is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.”

**Questions:** Do you view the Gospel as the beginning of your faith? Do you view the Gospel as something that you leave in the rear-view mirror? If so, we want to help change that. I hope that you will continue to think about the work God has done, is doing today, and will continue to do through the message of the Gospel working in your life.

We receive salvation by grace through faith. Depending on your story, you may be able to think of a specific time and place when you heard the Gospel message and believed for the first time. The key takeaway today is to understand that the effects of the Gospel are 100% ongoing in this life and the life to come.

**Visual:** The Four Circles (Gospel Coins)



1. **BEGINNING - God Created and Loves:** In the beginning, God created us and the world perfectly.

The Bible teaches that there is one God who created us according to His perfect design to live in a perfect relationship with Him and with each other because He loves us.

2. **BROKEN - Sin Breaks and Separates:** Sin separates us from God and has broken our world.

All people have chosen to turn away from what God says is best and do what they think is best. This is sin and deserves punishment. Sin messed up God’s perfect

creation, and it breaks our relationship with Him. There is nothing we alone can do to fix the problem of sin. No apologies, no sacrifices, etc. Romans 3:23

Here enters our Hope.

3. **BELIEVE - Jesus Gave and Invites:** Jesus gave his life on the cross and invites us to believe in Him.

God loves the world so much that He sent Jesus into the world to rescue people from their sin. God invites us to believe that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and came back to life three days later so that we can have a relationship with Him. When this happens, our sins are forgiven, heaven becomes our forever home, and we have a relationship with God. John 3:16

**This is the heart of the gospel.**

Which leads us to one of the most missed opportunities when communicating the Gospel - What we Become. You see, for most, there is a life that's lived in between receiving grace through faith... and spending eternity with God after we pass on this earth. So what does that look like?

4. **BECOME - We Pursue and Share:** We become like Jesus by pursuing him and sharing Him with others.

As believers, we have a new identity - Child of God. **We are new creations** who follow Jesus to become more like Him and tell others about Him while we hold onto hope and promise that one day everything will be made new and every wrong will be made right.

Passage: **Ephesians 2:1-10**

- From spiritual death to life in Christ by grace through faith.
- Sanctification is a miracle! Jesus is making us new. But do we view that as a miracle?

So, what did the Gospel change? EVERYTHING! But, let's get specific...

### **1. APART FROM GOD, WE ARE SPIRITUALLY DEAD**

**Ephesians 2:1** As for you, you were **dead** in your **transgressions and sins**,

Without a relationship with God, we are dead. There is no other picture to communicate the reality of our condition apart from God.

**Ephesians 2:2-3** in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. **3** All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath.

In short, when we are dead in our sins, we become accustomed to a life contrary to God's will. All we know and understand is how to understand our "flesh".

## **2. THE GREATEST MIRACLE: GOD GIVES US LIFE THROUGH CHRIST**

**Ephesians 2:4-7** But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, **5** made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. **6** And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, **7** in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

Despite us being "dead" in our sins, God's power is on full display in the Gospel, making us "alive together with Christ." Through His death and resurrection, Jesus triumphed over sin and death, offering a new life and a right relationship with God to everyone, regardless of their background.

Our reality and blessings are found in this new position with Christ, which lifts us from a state of spiritual death to a place of ultimate triumph and joy.

## **3. WE ARE NOW FREE TO LIVE IN GOD'S DESIGN**

**Ephesians 2:8-10** For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— **9** not by works, so that no one can boast. **10** For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Salvation is a gift from God. You can't earn it or buy it; it's given freely out of God's love. To receive this gift, all you have to do is BELIEVE. Your good deeds don't play a role in this process. From here, we understand that the Gospel changes everything...

Let's be clear - **What did the Gospel Change?**

**2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV):** "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"

This verse is the primary declaration. Being "in Christ" is the condition for this spiritual renewal. It's a complete shift—the "old" way of life, characterized by sin and separation from God, is replaced by a "new" life, defined by a relationship with Him.

**The gospel of Jesus is not about him coming to give success to the unsuccessful.**

**The gospel of Jesus is not about Jesus coming to make the financial poor, financially wealthy.**

**Jesus did not come to make bad people slightly better.**

**The gospel of Jesus is about him coming to give the hopeless a living hope.**

**It's about Jesus coming to give those dead in their sins eternal life.**

**It's about Jesus coming to save those from hell because we can't save ourselves.**

**TAKE AWAY:** The Gospel is not an introduction class. Not an item to cross off. It's more like being born - IT JUST IS. Being born gives you a life that previously didn't exist at all. Being born again and receiving the gift of eternal life brings - doesn't just change some things about you - it changes everything!

**Small Group Transition:** For now, in our small groups, let's continue to learn how our new identity shapes what we believe about ourselves and our relationship with God.

## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

**Get Them Talking:** Was there anything that stood out to you from the message? Maybe something you didn't know before?

## READ: Romans 8:14-17 as a group

The teaching mentioned that many Christians struggle with guilt or a sense of being unchanged. This often comes from judging our reality by our experience of the flesh rather than by scripture and the guidance of the Spirit. Based on verses 14-17, what can we know that God has done for us as believers?

**Leader Note:** God has taken us from being slaves to sin and living in fear to being redeemed and adopted Children of God, led by the Holy Spirit. Not only this, but Christ's sacrifice was so sufficient that we are Co-Heirs with Christ. These things are true regardless of what our emotions, doubts, or experiences tell us.

The Apostle Paul wanted to make it abundantly clear that as believers, we are Children of God. We are not fearful slaves. Instead, the Holy Spirit testifies that we are children of God. What specific "fear" this adoption might free us from?

**Leader Note:** (Ex: fear of not being good enough, fear of punishment, fear of losing salvation). A slave works for his master out of obligation and fear; a child lives in the family out of love and security. Adoption is a permanent, legal status granted by God's love.

Paul says we cry out "Abba, Father" (v. 15). The word "Abba" is an Aramaic term similar to the familiar English word "Dad". What does the shift from addressing God as an intimidating judge to addressing Him as "Abba" tell you about your new relationship and identity in Christ?

**Leader Note:** "Abba" signifies intimacy, trust, and access. Is God still the creator of the universe and judge of all? Yes. The beauty of it is that the creator of the universe desires such a close relationship with him that, as adopted Children, we cry out, "Abba, Father."

How does thinking of God as "Abba" change how you pray or approach Him after you've sinned?

**Leader Note:** We can have honest, frank, and vulnerable prayers/conversations with "Abba, Father." "The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children," reminding us of this truth. When we listen to the Holy Spirit and are led by the Spirit, we are reminded of who we are and what access we have to God. When we are led by the Spirit and listen to the lie of the enemy, the exact opposite happens. If you would like, you can guide the group to distinguish between the Spirit's confirmation (peace, conviction leading to repentance, assurance of love) and the enemy/flesh's accusations (shame, hopelessness, relentless condemnation). The Spirit's testimony affirms identity, even in failure.

Our large group teaching today emphasized the disconnect between belief and day-to-day living. If you struggle with the feeling that your life hasn't changed or that you're far from being "made new," how can the secure reality that you are already God's child (v. 16) help close that gap?

**Leader Note:** This brings the core issue of the series back to the passage. The *fact* of being God's child is the foundation. We don't act like a child *to become* one; we act like one *because we already are* one. Use the analogy: A prince who struggles to act like royalty is still royalty. His *identity* dictates his *potential* behavior.

In verse 17, Paul says that because we are children, we are also "heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ." What does the designation of "heir" mean in a practical sense for a believer living *today*?

**Leader Note:** An heir receives an inheritance. The inheritance isn't just heaven; it's also the current benefits of being in the family (access, power of the Spirit, purpose). As heirs, we have full access to the abundance of spiritual resources available to us as part of the family of God.

Paul connects being led by the Spirit (v. 14) with the confidence to call God "Abba" (v. 15) and the reality of being an heir (v. 17). How can you intentionally seek the leading of the Spirit this week?

**Leader Note:** Ask for specific, small actions they can take: (e.g., praying "Abba, Father" when tempted, reading the Word to discern the Spirit's direction, choosing forgiveness over retaliation).