

# *Innovation: The New Thing*

*Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a  
new creature: old things are passed away;  
behold, all things are become new.*

*2 Corinthians 5:17*

# *Innovation*

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*The introduction of something new, a new  
measure, change, alteration, transformation,  
metamorphosis*

Men who profess Christ are being put upon daily to “man up” concerning their faith.

Our roles as responsible Christian men are in conflict with secular culture’s values.

Divorce rates are alarming	Extra marital affairs
Dysfunction in families	Sensuality
Abandonment of children	Pornography
Disproportionate representation in the penal system	Escapist mentality continues its onslaught on us at home/work and even in our churches

An understanding of who we are in Christ and our God given mandate is a survival imperative.

There is but one true Innovator; God Himself and the New Thing is His gift of Eternal Life. The experience of regeneration through the baptism of the Holy Spirit is marvelous but for many so misunderstood. It's wonderful!

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.  
2 Corinthians 5:17 King James

Therefore if any person is ingrafted in Christ (the Messiah) he is a new creation (a new creature altogether); the old previous moral and spiritual condition has passed away. Behold, the fresh and new has come! Amplified



This remarkable New Testament principle is illustrated in the Old Testament.

The River Jordan: Behind them lay forty years of wilderness wanderings, carnality, worldliness, backsliding, and unhappiness.

God commands Joshua and Israel to cross over the flooding Jordan River. (Spring rains) The crossing was a major turning point in Israel's faith. It meant invading Canaan with no means of escape.

The priests were sent to the center of Jordan holding the Ark of the Covenant ; the waters dammed up back to the city of Adam (the city we all came from: by Adam death came ) and Israel passed over on dry ground.

Before Israel lay the Promised Land with its prospects of victorious warfare, vast possessions, joys, triumph, peace and plenty. The priest bearing the sacred Ark of the Covenant arrived in the river Jordan.

Throughout the Old Testament the river Jordan speaks of death.

The moment the feet of the priests touched the river, the waters were rolled back. The people were able to cross over on dry land.

Twelve men, each picked up a stone from the wilderness side of Jordan and placed it in the riverbed. Then they each picked up a stone from the riverbed Jordan, carried it over to Canaan's side, and heaped them up as a memorial.

What took place at Jordan represented the death and resurrection of Christ and His work on the cross. It reached forward 2100 years to where we are today and back to the beginning of the human family.

Christ goes before us in death. He also goes before us in life. As we pass through this world. He is with us.

It was a divinely planned Old Testament illustration of the New Testament teaching that “in Christ” we pass through death to resurrection ground.

In type and picture, the Lord’s redeemed Old Testament people thus placed the river of death between them and all the disobedience, disappointments, and disasters of the wilderness years. Now on resurrection ground, conquest and contentment lay ahead. Paul translates Old Testament ritual into a New Testament reality. In Christ we stand now on the resurrection side of death, henceforth no longer to live to please ourselves but to live for Christ.

In Christ is a favorite Pauline expression. It (or its equivalents) occurs about 130 times in the New Testament.

The expression “in Christ” sums up briefly and profoundly the inexhaustible significance of man’s redemption.

It speaks of:

- Security
- Acceptance
- Assurance
- Inheritance
- Participation
- Knowing the Truth

## “In Christ” References:

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- Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in **Christ Jesus**: Romans 3:24
- There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are **in Christ Jesus**, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life **in Christ Jesus** hath made me free from the law of sin and death. Romans 8:1-2
- Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is **in Christ Jesus our Lord**. Romans 8:39
- But of him are ye **in Christ Jesus**, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: 1 Corinthians 1:30
- For as in Adam all die, even so **in Christ** shall all be made alive. 1 Corinthians 15:22
- If in this life only we have hope **in Christ**, we are of all men most miserable. 1 Corinthians 15:19

## “In Christ” References:

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- For ye are all the children of God by faith **in Christ Jesus**. Galatians 3:26
- There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one **in Christ Jesus**. Galatians 3:28
- Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places **in Christ**: Ephesians 1:3
- And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places **in Christ Jesus**: Ephesians 2:6
- For we are his workmanship, created **in Christ Jesus** unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them. Ephesians 2:10

## “In Christ” References continued:

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- But now **in Christ Jesus** ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. Ephesians 2:13
- Let this mind be in you, which was also **in Christ Jesus**: Philippians 2:6
- I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God **in Christ Jesus**. Philippians 3:14
- For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead **in Christ** shall rise first: 1Thessalonians 4:16
- Yea, and all that will live godly **in Christ Jesus** shall suffer persecution. 2 Timothy 3:12

# New Creatures

New ( kainos) is an adjective which refers to that which is new in kind (unprecedented, novel, uncommon, unheard of). Kainos describes that which has come into being and was not previously present.

A creation of God's redemptive work. He is a new creature with a new Director, a new Determination, a new Demeanor, new Delights, new Desires, and a new Destiny.

“Only the power that makes a world  
can make a Christian.”

John Wesley

# NOT REFORMED BUT TRANSFORMED

“The miracle of regeneration – being born again and baptized by the Holy Spirit into the spiritual body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:13) is a true miracle of special creation, not psychological redirection, or anything of that sort.” - Henry Morris

# NOT THE OLD “I” ... THE NEW CREATURE IN CHRIST

Creature (ktisis) refers to bringing something into existence which has not existed before. It is notable that “ktisis” always occurs in the New Testament in connection with God’s creative activities. I Peter 2:13

Arthur Pink (In the “The Sovereignty of God”)

“The new birth is no mere turning over a new leaf – but is the inception and reception of a new life! It is no mere reformation, but a radical transformation. In short, the new birth is a miracle – the result of the supernatural operation of God. It is radical, revolutionary, lasting!

# In the new birth:

- God lays hold of one who is spiritually dead – and quickens him into newness of life!
- God takes up one who was shaped in iniquity and conceived in sin- and conforms him to the image of His son.
- God seizes a drudge of the devil- and makes him a member of His holy family!
- God picks up the destitute beggar – and makes him joint-heir with Christ!
- God comes to one who is full of enmity against Him – and gives him a new heart that is full of love for Him.
- God stoops to one who by nature is a rebel- and works in him both to will and to do of His good pleasure!
- By His irresistible power, God transforms ...a sinner – into a saint; an enemy into His friend, a drudge of the devil – into His beloved child!

# THE ANCIENT: THINGS

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Old (archaios from arche = beginning) is strictly speaking that which has been from the beginning. Archaios reaches back to a beginning, whenever that beginning may have been.

The old – Those things that characterized our pre-Christ life; our life in Adam.

Before we were in Adam we continually, willingly chased after sin, but now that we are in Christ, we have a new power to resist the pull of sin and now the difference is that sin “chases” after us!

By creation, we have life in Adam; by redemption, we have life “in Christ.”

# THE ANCIENT: THINGS

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Passed away (parerchomai para= besides, near + erchomai=come, go) means to pass near, pass by or pass away and is used in both a literal and figurative sense, with the figurative uses predominating in the New Testament.

# THE ANCIENT: THINGS CONTINUED

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Behold (idou) Idou means “you yourself look, see, perceive!” The aorist imperative is a command emphasizing “Do it now! Don’t delay!”

One who is now “in Christ” is a qualitatively new person.

Albert Barnes explains new as referring to... all things in view of the mind. The purpose of life, the feelings of the heart, the principles of action, all become new.

All is new. There are new views of God and of Jesus Christ; new views of this world and of the world to come; new views of truth and of duty; and everything is seen in a new aspect and with new feelings.

James Butler delineates three new things that occurs with all who become a new creation “in Christ”...

- 1) The change in devotion. Ones interests will greatly change. A saved person will have interests in spiritual things which an unsaved person will not. A saved person will have devotion for Christ which an unsaved person will not.
- 2) The change in deportment. There will be a change in the person’s behavior when he is saved/reconciled to God.
- 3) The change in destiny. This is the greatest and most important change.

## New Creature References

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a **new creature**: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. 2 Corinthians 5:17

For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a **new creature**. Galatians 6:15

## New Man References

Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments [contained] in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one **new man**, so making peace; Ephesians 2:15

And that ye put on the **new man**, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. Ephesians 4:24

And have put on the **new man**, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him: Colossians 3:10

## New Heart New Spirit References

Cast away from you all your transgressions, whereby ye have transgressed; and make you a **new heart** and a new spirit: for why will ye die, O house of Israel? Ezekiel 18:31

A **new heart** also will I give you, and a **new spirit** will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put **my spirit** within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them. Ezekiel 36:26-27

Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:39

# Reconciliation

(Greek) kataliage is one aspect of Christ's work of redemption. It refers to the restoration of the sinner to fellowship with God.

# How God made reconciliation possible

“He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us...”

2 Corinthians 5:21

Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, Paul carefully chooses his words. He does not say Jesus was made to be a sinner. Jesus never became a sinner, but He did become sin for us. Even His becoming sin was a righteous act of love, not an act of sin.

# Ambassadors for Christ:

Paul sees that he serves in a foreign land as the representative of a King. The King has a message, and Paul is delivering that message as though God were pleading through us.

An ambassador does not speak on his own authority; his own opinions or demands mean little. He simply says what he has been commissioned to say. But an ambassador is more than a messenger; he is a representative, and the honor and reputation of his country are in his hands.

Ambassador is a glorious title for Paul and other apostles.

An ambassador, Paul makes a simple strong, direct plea:

“...be reconciled to God.”

# Concluding thoughts:

- Get a clear view of evil and sin as God sees it. Be holy!
- Seek to be more acquainted with our Lord Jesus Christ through prayer and devotion. Worship God!
- Realize there is nothing more important than your soul and the souls of others. Witness your faith in Christ!
- Remember to be who you are at all times, in the ministry of reconciliation; serve God!
- Determine as long as you live to make the Bible your constant guide. Study to show yourself approved!