

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here” 2 Cor 5:17

1. **New Life:** “But God, being rich in **mercy**, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our sins, made **alive** together with Christ...” Eph 2:4,5

Mercy is God not punishing us as our sins deserve, and

Grace is God blessing us despite the fact that we do not deserve it.

If you are anxious----- You doubt God’s promises

If you are impatient----- You doubt God’s perfect timing as Lord

If you are resentful----- You doubt God’s judgment/wisdom

If you feel guilty----- You doubt God’s complete forgiveness

If you feel inadequate----- You doubt God’s power

If you feel hopeless----- You doubt God’s care and power

Lack of self-control----- You doubt God’s word: reap what you sow

Q1: Which ones above do you struggle with the most and why?

2. **New Identity:** “The spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if we **suffer** with Him in order that we may also be glorified with Him.” Romans 8: 16,17

Two crosses for us to consider:

- 1) Suffering with him on the cross See Gal 2:20
- 2) Suffering with Him carrying our cross Luke 9:23

Q2: A cross is any suffering you incur while doing the will of God. What “cross” are you carrying now? Do you need help carrying it? Be honest. Ask!

3. **New Nature:** “I have been crucified with Christ; and 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 the **faith** in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.” Gal 2:20

Q3: What areas in your life are you worried about? Why are you afraid?

Life Application

An important part of discipleship is learning how to apply God's truths to your life. Below are just a few ways you can start thinking about what you've learned and apply it to your daily life.

1. Memorize our memory verse:

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here” (2 Corinthians 5:17).

2. Read Paul's letter to the Romans in one sitting.

3. Bounce one of these questions around (over coffee or lunch) with your discipleship partner or group:

🏠 How can a person embrace their new identity in Christ and begin to focus on a new way of living?

🏠 What are the implications of the Bible's claim that Jesus Christ is life itself (see John 11:25; 14:6; Colossians 3:4; cf. John 10:10)? Is guilt more a subjective feeling or an objective condition or state? Why?

🏠 How could it be that the death of a Jewish-carpenter-turned-rabbi on a Roman cross on a Friday afternoon some 2,000 years ago makes it possible for a person today to be “acquitted by God” on all counts of sinfulness?

🏠 In what specific ways do you struggle to see yourself as Christ sees you?

🏠 Where do you see newness in your life because of Christ? Where would you like to see more newness?