

Created in Christ for Good

February 11, 2023

Living as a new creation begins with _____ with God.

Living as a new creation means adopting a new _____ for my life.

Living as a new creation is _____ from walking in good works.

Ephesians 2:10

¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. (ESV)

2 Corinthians 5:17-20

¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. ¹⁸ All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. (ESV)

Ephesians 4:17-32

¹⁷ Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. ¹⁸ They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. ¹⁹ They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. ²⁰ But that is not the way you learned

Christ!—²¹ assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, ²² to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, ²³ and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, ²⁴ and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

²⁵ Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. ²⁶ Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷ and give no opportunity to the devil. ²⁸ Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need. ²⁹ Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. ³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹ Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. ³² Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. (ESV)

Personal Reflection or Group Discussion Questions

Open: What are some things you like to create? What, if any, purpose do your creations have?

Read & Discuss: Ephesians 2:10

1. Why might we have been created in Christ for good works? From what you know of the rest of Scripture, what are some of these “good works”—especially works regarding being a blessing to our community? What are some distractions that keep us from walking in these works more faithfully?

Read & Discuss: 2 Corinthians 5:17-20

2. What does Paul mean when he says that “if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation” (v. 17)? Again, thinking of our current sermon series, what are some of the ways you’ve seen God create new desires and passions in you with regard to being a blessing to others?
3. From verses 18-20, how would you define a “ministry of reconciliation”? In this, what is God’s role, and what is our role? What are some opportunities for you to fulfill this ministry in your context?

Read & Discuss: Ephesians 4:17-32

4. Reflecting on this passage, why is it so essential that we as believers “no longer walk as the Gentiles do” (v. 17)? How do we go about putting “on the new self, created after the likeness of God” (v. 24)?
5. From verses 25-32, list the obligations we have to others. Why would God care so much about how we treat others? What can you imagine happening in our own community if all believers fully obeyed all that Paul commands here?

Apply: What’s one specific way you can live out the truth that you were created to do good works, thinking especially of ways you can be a blessing to others?

Pray: Ask God to help us to joyfully walk in our new identity in Christ and do good to those around us.