

Growing Up - October 21, 2018

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Text: Colossians 3:10-11. ¹⁰ Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him. ¹¹ In this new life, it doesn't matter if you are a Jew or a Gentile, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbaric, uncivilized, slave, or free. Christ is all that matters, and he lives in all of us.

Consider the 4 Master Builder's Plans

#1. Put On: "to clothe or be clothed with a new nature". In the same way we put on a new coat. This implies we do not have this new nature until we receive it from God.

a. Your New (nature)

This is not about being a better you ... it is a NEW YOU !!

The word new means: young, beginning again, a starting over nature. This puts the "born again" language in the middle of all this. Scripture alludes to a person that has become a Christian as someone born again with a young "new life" that has the potential to mature. This new nature comes only from Jesus Christ and is truly one of the most supernatural benefits of becoming a child of God ..

Why is this So Important?

The Bible says all of us have a sin nature. In the book of Genesis, After Adam and Eve sinned, they began to have sons and daughters in their own likeness. That is the same for all us unless you and I have a "new birth" experience. Christianity involves a death, and then the receiving of a new life, new nature, dying to self and old ways .

A Christian is born again. Death longer is in front of them. Death is behind them with the promise of new life (ZOE life / eternal life)in front. Christians must allow the hope of eternity to rise in their hearts NOW.

Question: What benefits are there to a Christian who thinks of death as something behind them not in front of them?

Ezekiel 36:26 Change of Heart - And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart.

Romans 12:2 - mind - Don't copy the behaviour and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

Question: Why is it difficult and uncomfortable to think about spiritual formation as something we receive rather than something that we do?

b. Be Renewed: "getting back to the plan /starting over/ to cause to grow up towards the intended plan "

#2. As you as you Learn to know your Creator

"As you Learn" refers to: "knowledge gained through first-hand relationship / experience", "contact-knowledge". This is knowledge that comes from a first-hand experience. We use descriptive words like – personal

Question: Describe a time when you learnt from God through encounter and experience?

#3. As you as you learn to know your Creator

This Learning and Knowing - Builds Faith. Faith involves "divine persuasion". This learning is about God continuously *birthing faith* in a yielded believer's mind, heart, and soul.

This would obviously involve unlearning selfish ways, unlearning independent thinking, stopping our tendencies to posture, our tendencies toward selfish promotion, selfish ambition.

Question: name a few times you have had to unlearn some things?

#4. Become like Him – “bear His Image” ...

Like Him and bearing Christian image .. to be one who has a close *resemblance* & "mirror-like representation"

Ephesians 4:14-16 – God wants us to grow up, to know the whole truth and tell it in love—like Christ in everything. We take our lead from Christ, who is the source of everything we do nourishing us so that we will grow up healthy in God, robust in love.

Bearing the image of means: "Growing Up": Following a *plan* with *pre-designed* and *pre-defined* specifications. That plan involves Christ in everything : eating, what we say, do, think, how we use our time, talents, treasure, handle relationships, how and where we serve, what we wear, watch, hobbies, habits. – CHRIST IN EVERYTHING !

Question: why is it easier to compartmentalize God's work rather than make God the centre of everything?

Closing: How do we get started? Seeking God first in Everything

Matthew 6:33 – seek first the KINGDOM OF GOD and His righteousness and all these things will be added to you.

Question: what are some new spiritual disciplines that may have to be adopted to grow more in your relationship with God?