

Who Am I?

I Am A New Life (II Co 5:16-17)

INTRODUCTION

1. Good Evening
 - a. Greeting...
2. Series of lessons asking the question "Who Am I?"
 - a. We noticed last week that we, as mankind, are of great value to God.
 - b. We will notice today that we, Christians, have "A New Life."
3. Knowing God places such a great value on each of us leads to a simple question...
 - a. What will you do with Jesus?
4. Today we are going to look at what happens when one answers that question with a resounding, "put Him on."

I. With My New Life I Will Follow Jesus

- A. This is first done by obeying God's gospel plan of salvation
 1. Study to know the Law of Christ.
 - i. **Ro 10:17** "So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ."¹
 - ii. **Ga 6:2** "Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ."
 2. Putting faith in Jesus as the Christ.
 - i. **Jn 3:16** "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." (NKJV)
 - ii. **Jn 14:15** "If you love me, you will keep my commandments."
 3. Repenting and putting away the old man of sin.
 - i. **Ac 17:30** "The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent"
 - ii. **Ro 6:6** "We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin."
 4. Confess Jesus as the Son of God.
 - i. **Mt 10:32** "Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven." (NKJV)
 5. Submission to immersion in water for the forgiveness of sins.
 - i. **Ro 6:3** "Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?"
 - ii. **Ac 22:16** "And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord." (NKJV)
- B. When this is done Christ is put on and that one becomes a "new life"
 1. **Ga 3:27** "For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ."
 2. **Ro 6:4** "We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life."

¹ All Scriptures are taken from the ESV unless otherwise noted.

Who Am I?

- C. That new life means...
1. A new mind.
 - i. **Ph 2:5** "Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus"
 2. A new behavior.
 - i. **Co 3:1-17** "If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. 3 For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. 5 Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. 6 On account of these the wrath of God is coming. 7 In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. 8 But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. 9 Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices 10 and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. 11 Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all. 12 Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, 13 bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. 14 And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. 15 And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. 17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."
 3. A new reward.
 - i. **Ro 6:5** "For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his."
- D. With a new mind, a new behavior, and a new reward how can I not want to follow Jesus
1. Obedience is expected not because we have to but because we get to.
 - i. **Jn 14:15** "If you love me, you will keep my commandments."

Who Am I?

II. With My New Life I Will Follow The Three S's

A. Studying

1. One way to mature as Christians is to study God's Word.
 - i. **II Ti 2:15** "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." (KJV)
 - ii. **II Ti 3:16** "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness"
2. We need our daily food.
 - i. **He 5:14** "But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil."
3. We need to meditate on God's Word after studying it putting it in our hearts.
 - i. **Ps 46:10a** "Be still, and know that I am God..."
 - ii. **Ps 1:2** "but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night."
 - iii. **Ps 19:14** "Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer."
 - iv. **Ph 4:8** "Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things." (NKJV)
4. We must remember that God's Word is our "owner's manual."
 - i. If we want to know how to have the best possible life we must look at our owner's manual.

B. Sharing

1. Another way to mature as Christians is to share God's Word.
 - i. **II Ti 2:2** "and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also."
2. We can share it in our actions.
 - i. **I Pt 3:1-2** "Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives, 2 when they see your respectful and pure conduct."
3. We cannot only share God's Word in conduct but also in speech.
 - i. "sometimes we should go beyond just living a good example to actually sharing the gospel. Many of us might never have become Christians if some had not shared the specifics of the gospel with us even though we had many good examples in front of us." (New Life Behavioral Ministries; Course 1 Unit 1 Lesson 3; by Motsinger, Hillery pg. 8)
4. Example of sharing
 - i. Hillery Motsinger told of the conversion of her 86 year old grandfather, "When we lived in the same town as my husband Mike's grandfather, Mr. Bain, we would often go over to his place after Bible study on Wednesday evenings. "Bobbo," as he was affectionately called by the family, had never been baptized. Time after time Mike

Who Am I?

studied the scriptures with him, but time after time Bobbo took no action. Bobbo was very frail. He had had severe asthma all his life and had not been expect to live past childhood. When Mike was a little boy, Boobo had had to go to bed every winter because of sickness. One Wednesday night after Bible study Mike said, "Let's don't go over their tonight. I have taught him all I know to teach and I do not think he will ever decide to be baptized. Besides, even if he did decide, tonight would be a terrible night to take him down to the church building." It was the coldest, windiest night of the year, but something told me to urge Mike to go. WE went to his house and couldn't believe it when Bobbo said he wanted to be baptized...it was a night that neither I nor the angels in heaven will ever forget." (Ibid)

C. Suffering

1. Lastly another way to mature as Christians is to suffer for Christ.
 - i. **II Ti 3:12** "Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted"
 - ii. **Ro 8:18** "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us."
2. The truth is we suffer now or we suffer later...it is our choice.
 - i. **II Th 1:4-9** "Therefore we ourselves boast about you in the churches of God for your steadfastness and faith in all your persecutions and in the afflictions that you are enduring. 5 This is evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are also suffering— 6 since indeed God considers it just to repay with affliction those who afflict you, 7 and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels 8 in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. 9 They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might,"
3. Suffering to spiritual maturity allows us to consider suffering a joy and privilege.
 - i. **Ja 1:2** "Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds"
 - ii. **Ac 5:41** "Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name."

CONCLUSION

1. Question: Are you living as one that has a "new life?"