

This Way Up

Pembroke Bible Chapel
D Axford – Oct 25, 2009
Series No. DA-2COR-15

We're Completely New! 2 Corinthians 5:11-17

I. Motivated by fear and love

- Paul's knowledge of Christ's future judgment moved him to persuade others to live for the Lord (*vs.11-13*).
- Christ's great love for all mankind had taken hold of Paul and controlled his every action (*vs.14*).

II. Manifesting both life and death

- All mankind is dead in sin (*vs.14c; Rom.5:13*).
- Christ died for sinners and rose to life (*vs.14b, 15d*).
- The believer:
 1. possesses eternal life through faith in Christ's substitutionary death (*vs.15b; Jn.3:16*), and
 2. experiences resurrection life through his co-crucifixion with Christ (*vs.15c, 16a; 2 Cor.4:12; Rom.6:3-7; 7:4,6; Gal.5:24; 2:20; Col.3:3; Jn.12:24*).

III. Morphed from the old to the new

- The born again believer has experienced a metamorphosis in his innermost being; the old has passed away, and a totally new creation by God has taken control of him.
- The old is the broken power of the flesh; the new is the controlling direction of the indwelling Holy Spirit.

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Application

Test examples – are you operating under the old or new?

- A difficult work colleague
- A teacher who is down on you or is unfair
- A difficult member of your family
- A spouse who is very negative
- A critical member of your church

How do you respond in any of these situations?

Silence – clam up,
Avoid the person,
Resent what is said,
Go away and sulk,
Complain to someone else,
Get angry,
Lash back at the person,
Tell the person how you feel.

Which response is of the flesh and which of the Spirit?

The Spirit directed response:

Speak to the person and explain exactly how you feel.
Don't attack him but let him know exactly how he has hurt you. He may respond very negatively or not at all.
But the next time the situation arises do exactly the same thing. Don't expect that in every case you will see an immediate positive change.

Before you do anything else make sure you do this.

Check yourself. Am I acting in a fleshly or Spirit controlled manner?