

December 14, 2023

The Lord wants you to live in His liberty and freedom.

2 Cor. 5:17 *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come. The old has gone, the new is here!* (NIV)

A new creation. The Greek word here is **ktisis** which means *a new species, creature or something that has not existed before*. When someone receives Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord, it changes them from the inside out. We become a new species of being that we could never be on our own. Now understand, this is not a physical metamorphosis, where we begin to look like a different kind of creature, but instead it is a change of who we really are. That change could possibly change our outward appearance, i.e. we wear a smile instead of a frown, or there is a glow from our face that wasn't there before. The real change is in the heart. The place of our true residence.

This change cannot come from our desires to change, but only by the act of the Holy Spirit in our lives. The LORD does not just want to be 'with' us, but He wants to abide 'in' us. **John 15:5** *"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.* (NIV) As Jesus was speaking to His disciples, He was painting a word picture to help them understand. Jesus is the source, the vine, of all that we need to be changed. As we "stay" or "abide" in Him, we are connected to the only source of spiritual nourishment. This spiritual food helps build a new character that is not ours, but His. He begins to do His work in us, and others will begin to see a complete change in us. We become a brand-new species that hasn't existed before. We have 'new' life.

Dear LORD, You are ever at work changing us into the likeness of Jesus. We could never accomplish this on our own. It is a spiritual work in us. Help us to allow You to do the change without resistance. In Jesus Name, Amen