

SERMON: THE NEW NORMAL

2nd Corinthians 5:17

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

Introduction

We are hearing so much today about the “new normal.” We all know the post-pandemic era will not be the same as the pre-pandemic era. The pandemic or plague has disrupted our lives and kicked us out of our comfort zones. Never before had we experienced the lockdown of cities and even countries, the closing of borders, the banning of travel, the shutting of all but essential services, and the banning of large gatherings. In the past, in times of disaster, Christians flocked to the church houses and prayed as a group in close spiritual and physical proximity. In a great contrast, this time, it was not prudent to flock to the sanctuary; we prayed fervently in our homes. Some historians are saying this pandemic will have a greater impact on our society than the Civil War, World War II, or even The Great Depression of 1929. Despite the dire predictions I believe we will emerge stronger, wiser, and more spiritual if we continue to trust in God. If we lean on Him, He will give us the answers to the tough questions that present themselves in these unprecedented times. Let us remember that blood-bought Christians have already experienced a wonderful new normal when we accepted Christ as our personal Savior. This new normal in Christ will help us to adjust to and thrive in the new normal of the post-pandemic era. Let’s review the wonderful new normal that Christ gives every believer.

Exposition

1. The Birth of New Creatures

(Not Perfect Creatures)

(The New Creatures Are Much Better Than the Old Creatures)

(We Will Reach Perfection When We All Get To Heaven)

(2nd Corinthians 5:17)

2. The Moral Bar Is Raised

(The Attitude and Motive As Well As the Action Is Considered)

(You Must Do the Right Thing for the Right Reason)

(The Sermon on the Mount gives the New Standard)

(Matthew 5:20; 5:27-28; 1ST Corinthians 13:1-3; 1ST John 3:15)

3. The Definition of Neighbor Is Expanded

(Everyone You Come In Contact With Is Your Neighbor)
 (This Is the Context of the Parable of the Good Samaritan)
 (Luke 10:25-37)

4. The End of Animal Sacrifice

(Jesus Was the Once And For All Sacrifice)
 (Hebrews 10:10)

5. The Priesthood of All Believers

(1st Peter 2:5-9; 1st Timothy 2:1)
 (Jesus Is “The One and Only High Priest”-Hebrews 3:1)

6. The Sacrifice of Praise Takes Center Stage

(Worship is Now User Friendly)
 (Hebrews 13:15)

Closing Thoughts

As we celebrate Holy Communion, remember Jesus’ death on the cross opened the door for an eternal new normal which is filled with unimaginable joy. Jesus got into “good trouble” to purchase our salvation; He did the hard work! Since we are covered in His blood we can face any challenge and any abrupt change with confidence and with thanksgiving. Our ancestors sang about their new normal: “I know I’ve been changed; the angels in heaven done signed my name.”
 Give God Glory! Give God All the Glory!

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