

Into God's Best for Your Life (Part 3)

Living As A New Creation



This study guide provides a detailed synthesis of the theological teachings regarding divine reconciliation, the nature of the "flesh" versus the "soul," and the transformative promise of becoming a "new creation" in Christ. It is based on an analysis of the "New Creations" sermon series and associated study notes.

Part I: Short-Answer Review Quiz

Instructions: Provide a 2–3 sentence response for each of the following questions based on the provided source materials.

1. **What is the significance of the "carrot on a stick" analogy in relation to human effort?** The analogy illustrates how the enemy uses the "flesh" to dangle promises of satisfaction, fulfillment, and happiness that can never be reached. It depicts humanity as being in a state of constant, exhausting motion toward a goal that is fundamentally impossible to achieve through self-reliance.

2. **According to Genesis 2:7, what are the two distinct parts of a human being's origin?** Humanity is composed of "dust from the ground," which forms the physical flesh, and the "breath of life" breathed directly into man by God. This dual origin highlights that while our bodies are humble and tied to the earth, our life is a result of divine inspiration.
3. **How does the "curse of the ground" specifically affect the human flesh?** Because man was formed from the dust of the ground, the curse God placed upon the earth due to sin directly impacts the physical body. This results in a "broken body" that is subject to decay and will eventually return to the dust from which it was made.
4. **Why does the text describe the physical body as a "tent"?** Drawing from 2 Corinthians 5:1, the body is described as a tent because it is a temporary earthly home rather than a permanent dwelling. It serves as a covering for the soul for a limited time before being replaced by an eternal "building from God" in heaven.
5. **What is the danger of focusing excessively on personal pronouns like "I" and "me"?** Overusing these pronouns often leads individuals to focus solely on the "person in the mirror" or the fleshly self, causing the divine purpose of the soul to be neglected. This focus traps a person in the cycle of "chasing carrots" because the flesh alone cannot satisfy the deeper needs of the spirit.
6. **How do the flesh and the soul differ in their natural reactions to pain?** The flesh has a natural preservation instinct to recoil from pain, such as pulling a hand away from a heat source. Conversely, the soul is not driven by these natural limits and can endure physical suffering for a higher purpose, as evidenced by the Apostle Paul's willingness to continue preaching after being stoned.
7. **What does it mean to be a "new creation" according to 2 Corinthians 5:17?** To be a new creation means that once a person is "in Christ," their old identity—tied to the cursed earth and past sins—passes away. They are granted a renewed life where they can live daily in God's promises rather than under the weight of their past.
8. **How does the builder/restorer analogy explain the concept of reconciliation?** Reconciliation is compared to a master builder who takes a ruined, broken-down house and restores it within three days to a state better than its original condition. Every "warped board" and "rusted nail" is replaced with perfect materials, symbolizing how God totally restores the broken fellowship with humanity.
9. **What is the specific definition of "justification" provided in the text?** Justification is described using the mnemonic "just-if-I'd never sinned." It refers to a state where a holy and righteous God views the believer as though they had no sin, restoring the relationship based on Christ's work rather than the individual's merit.
10. **What is the role of an "ambassador for Christ" as described in the source?** An ambassador is a representative through whom God makes His divine appeal to the world. Believers are entrusted with the "message of reconciliation," imploring others to be reconciled to God and acting as conduits for His grace.

Part II: Quiz Answer Key

1. **Carrot on a stick:** Represents the enemy's deception; satisfaction is dangled but unreachable through the flesh.
2. **Genesis 2:7:** Humans are made of dust/dirt (flesh) and God's breath/inspiration (spiritual life).
3. **The Curse:** Since man is from the ground and the ground is cursed, the body is "broken" and returns to dirt.
4. **The "Tent":** Symbolizes that the physical body is temporary, earthly, and meant to be replaced by something eternal.
5. **Personal Pronouns:** Focusing on "I/me" usually emphasizes the flesh and ignores the soul's divine purpose.
6. **Pain Reactions:** Flesh recoils for self-preservation; the soul can endure pain for a divine mission (e.g., Apostle Paul).
7. **New Creation:** The "old" (sinful/cursed) passes away; the individual is daily renewed in Christ.
8. **Restoration Analogy:** Reconciliation is a "total restoration" where God fixes a broken life better than it was at the start.
9. **Justification:** "Just-if-I'd never sinned"; being viewed as sinless and righteous before God because of Jesus.
10. **Ambassadors:** Believers represent Christ to the world, carrying the message of reconciliation to others.

Part III: Essay Format Questions

The following questions are designed for deeper reflection and synthesis. Answers are not provided.

1. **The Interplay of Origin and Destiny:** Discuss how the "origin story" found in Genesis 2:7 shapes the biblical understanding of human mortality and the necessity of divine intervention. How does the concept of "returning to dust" contrast with the promise of a "resurrected body"?
2. **The Limitations of the Flesh:** Analyze the argument that "you cannot live out God's best by living in the flesh." Use the "carrot on a stick" analogy and the "preservation instinct" to explain why self-reliance is viewed as a barrier to spiritual fulfillment.
3. **Reconciliation as Radical Restoration:** Using the analogy of the "broken-down house," evaluate the depth of biblical reconciliation. How does this concept of restoration differ from mere "repair," and what are the implications for an individual's "new identity"?
4. **The Complexity of Identity:** Explore the distinction between the "person in the mirror" and the "life God put in us." How does understanding the human being as a "complex creature" (flesh and soul) change the way one uses personal pronouns and views their daily purpose?
5. **God as the Author of "Newness":** Examine the reference to Revelation 21:5 ("I am making all things new") in the context of both the expanding universe and the individual

believer. How does the "God of Wonders" documentary's finding on the universe support the theological claim that God is eternally creative?

Part IV: Glossary of Key Terms

Term	Definition
Ambassador	A representative of Christ through whom God makes His appeal to humanity; a bearer of the message of reconciliation.
Dikaiosyne	The Greek word for "righteousness"; refers to the "righteousness of God" that believers wear when they are in Christ.
Flesh	The physical part of humanity formed from the dust; it is temporary, subject to the curse of the ground, and naturally seeks self-preservation.
Incarnate	Literally meaning "clothed in flesh"; refers to Jesus Christ taking on a physical, human body during His time on earth.
Inspiration	Derived from the concept of "God-breathed" (Genesis 2:7); refers to God breathing life into man and breathing His word into the authors of the Bible.
Justification	The act of being made right before a holy God; described as being viewed "just as if I'd never sinned."
New Creation	The state of a believer in Christ where the "old" sinful nature has passed away and a new, renewed life has begun.

Reconciliation	The restoration of a broken relationship into beautiful harmony; the process by which God brings humanity back to Himself.
Soul	The eternal part of a human being, given by God's breath, which carries His purpose and is not limited by the natural instincts of the flesh.
Tent	A metaphor for the earthly, physical body, emphasizing its temporary nature compared to the eternal "building" provided by God.