

## Studies in Christianity A New Creature #4

S#1.

### What have I Become

S#2.

Text : **Philippians 3: 12-21 ; I John 1: 5-10**

**A. Our previous three lessons have observed some of the changes that must occur when one becomes a “new creature.”**

1. Our first lesson addressed how one becomes a “new creature.”
2. We then looked at the perspective of Jesus, it is like being “born again.” **S#3.**
  - a. Being born again is prerequisite to salvation.
  - b. The water of baptism is involved in being born again.
  - c. Just being baptized does not make one born again.
  - d. To be born again is a total commitment, a surrender to the lordship of Christ.
3. The 3rd lesson observed some of the practical results of being totally committed. **S#4.**
  - a. When born again one lives by a new **standard**.
  - b. A new creature has a new **purpose** in life.
  - c. The new purpose one has is motivated by a new **incentive**.
  - d. One who is born again has a new **hope**.
  - e. The new creature has a new **reward**.
  - f. Based upon his hope and promised rewards the new creature is now **confident**.
  - g. Attached to the new creature’s hope and promised rewards, he has new **duties**.
  - h. There are new **obligations** placed upon the new creature.
  - i. All of these new aspects produces a new **lifestyle** for the new creature.
  - j. The one who has incorporated all these new things in his life has a new **destination**.

**B. By this lesson we will observe what one becomes when he is born again.** **S#5.**

1. He becomes a child of God.
2. He becomes a citizen of the kingdom of God.
3. He becomes a member of God’s church.
4. He becomes a companion in fellowship with God.
5. He has become an advocate for the Triune God.

**I. When one is “born again”, he is born into the family of God.****S#6.****A. God views Jesus as His Son which makes Him a family member.****S#7.**

1. **Luke 3: 21** – Now when all the people were baptized, Jesus was also baptized, and while He was praying, heaven was opened, **22** and the Holy Spirit descended upon Him in bodily form like a dove, and a voice came out of heaven, "You are My beloved Son, in You I am well-pleased."

2. Jesus is the heir of God the Father.

**Heb. 1: 1** – God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, **2** in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.

**S#8.****B. Those who are “born again” are sons ( *children* ) of God.****S#9.**

1. **Gal. 3: 26** – For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. **27** For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

2. **I John 3: 1** – See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and such we are.

3. Those who are born again are fellow-heirs with Jesus.

- a. **Gal. 4: 7** – Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God.

**S#10.**

- b. **Rom. 8: 16** – The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, **17** and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.

**C. Those who are “new creatures” are adopted children of God.**

**Rom. 8: 13** – for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

**S#11.**

**14** For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

**15** For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!" ( *an intimate term .. dad .. only used by own children* )

**II. When one is born again he is born as a citizen of the kingdom of God.****S#12.****A. John the Baptizer came preaching the kingdom of Heaven.**

**Matt. 3: 1** – Now in those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, saying, **2** "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

**S#13.****B. Jesus preached the coming of the kingdom of Heaven.**

**Matt. 4: 17** – From that time Jesus began to preach and say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

**C. Those who are called by the gospel are added to the kingdom of God. S#14.**

1. **I Thes. 2: 12** – ... we were exhorting and encouraging and imploring each ... **12** so that you would walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory. S#14.
2. **Col. 1: 13** – who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light. **13** For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, S#15.

**D. Those who are transferred into the kingdom are citizens of the kingdom.**

1. **Phil. 3: 20** – For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; **21** who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself. S#16.
2. Citizenship carries with it certain basic obligations. S#17.
  - a. A citizen owes his allegiance to his country.
  - b. Obey the laws of the king
  - c. Pay his taxes
  - d. Defend the kingdom

**III. Being born again places one into God's church. S#18.****A. Baptism, part of the process of one's being born again puts him IN Christ. S#19.**

1. **Gal. 3: 26** – For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. **27** For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.
2. **Rom. 6: 3** – do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? **4** Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. S#20.

**B. Baptism also puts one into the body of Christ.**

1. **I Cor. 12: 12** – For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ. **13** For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. S#21.
2. That ONE body is composed of born again people, not denominations. S#22.
  - a. **I Cor. 12: 18** – But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired. **19** If they were all one member, where would the body be?
  - b. **I Cor. 12: 27** – Now you are Christ's body, and individually members of it.

- c. Remember to whom this epistle was addressed. *One specific congregation.*

**I Cor. 1: 1** – Paul, called as an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, **S#23.**  
and Sosthenes our brother, **2** To the church of God which is at Corinth,  
to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, saints by calling,  
with all who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
their Lord and ours:

**C. Thus, the body of Christ IS the church of Christ.**

1. That which puts one INTO Christ, puts one INTO His church. **S#24.**
2. **Col. 1: 18** – He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything.
3. **Col. 1: 24** – ... I do my share on behalf of His body, which is the church, in filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions.

**D. No one “joins” the church, God adds those who are saved.**

1. **I Cor. 12: 18** – But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired. **19** If they were all one member, where would the body be? **S#25.**
2. **Acts 2: 47** – praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.
3. God does the adding at the time of baptism.  
**Acts 2: 41** – So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls.

**IV. The born again Christian has become a companion of the triune God.**

**S#26.**

**A. How do you choose a friend ?**

**S#27.**

1. One you like. ( *“He’s a nice guy.”* )
2. One you respect. ( *He is not honest, treats others badly* )
3. One with whom you share interests. ( *Hunting, cooking, Hobbies* )
4. One who shares your values. ( *Religious, political, social* )
- \* 5. *God is also selective of His friends.*

**B. One does not have to be sinless to be a friend of God.**

1. Abraham was a chronic liar, but he was called the friend of God.  
**James 2:23** – and the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "And Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness," and he was called the friend of God. **S#28.**

2. Abraham demonstrated his faith in unquestioned obedience to God.  
**James 2:21** – Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up Isaac his son on the altar?
3. Anyone who will seek to be the friend of God must surrender his heart in obedience.
  - a. **Matt. 7: 21** ... It isn't enough to do religious things, one must have obedient heart
  - b. **John 14:23** – Jesus answered and said to him, " If anyone loves Me, he will **S#29.** keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him. **24** "He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine, but the Father's who sent Me.
  - \* c. Companionship with God is dependent upon our surrendering to His rule in our life.

**C. The life that the born again person lives reflects shared values with God.**

1. Fellowship with God is based upon those shared values.  
**I John 1: 6** – If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the **S#30.** darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; **7** but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.
2. The succeeding verses make it clear that, like Abraham, we will never be perfect.  
**I John 1: 9** – If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us **S#31.** our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. **10** If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us.

**V. The born again Christian has become an advocate for the triune God.** **S#32.**

**A. The parables about a Master who goes into a far place are about Jesus.** **S#33.**

1. Jesus has gone into Heaven to advocate for us and left His kingdom in our care.
2. As in the parables, Jesus will return to call us into account for how we handled it.

**B. Those who are born again are called in order to be proclaimers Christ.** **S#34.**

1. **I Pet. 2: 9** – But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;
2. The "new creatures" are assigned by God to be his ambassadors on the earth.  
**II Cor. 5: 17** – Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old **S#35.** things passed away; behold, new things have come. **18** Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation. **19** namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation. **20** Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were

**making an appeal through us;** we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

**C. All who have been made disciples of Christ are responsible to make disciples.**

1. **Matt. 28: 18** – And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has **S#36.** been given to Me in heaven and on earth. **19** Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, **20** teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”
2. **Mark 16: 15-16** – Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation

**D. All who do not fulfill their stewardship will be judged.**

### **CONCLUSION :**

**S#37.**

**A. When one becomes a “new creature” and is “born again” his status changes.**

1. He becomes a child of God.
2. He becomes a citizen of the kingdom of God.
3. He becomes a member of God’s church.
4. He becomes a companion in fellowship with God.
5. He has become an advocate for the Triune God

**B. If you have become a new creature or been born again this is your status. **S#38.****

**C. If you have not been born again your status is desperate. **S#39.****

1. **Eph. 2: 12** – Remember that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.
2. If you have not surrendered your heart the Christ and obeyed His gospel, You are lost .. You have no hope .. and .. You are without God in the world.

### **INVITATION :**

**S#40.**

**A. Jesus came to earth, suffered, died, and rose again to make hope available.**

**B. If you want to have the anticipation of eternal life, that hope is available now.**

**S#41.** ... Communion slide

**Lesson Text :****Philippians 3: 12-21**

**12** Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus. **13** Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, **14** I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. **15** Let us therefore, as many as are perfect, have this attitude; and if in anything you have a different attitude, God will reveal that also to you; **16** however, let us keep living by that same standard to which we have attained.

**17** Brethren, join in following my example, and observe those who walk according to the pattern you have in us. **18** For many walk, of whom I often told you, and now tell you even weeping, that they are enemies of the cross of Christ, **19** whose end is destruction, whose god is their appetite, and whose glory is in their shame, who set their minds on earthly things. **20** For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; **21** who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.

**I John 1: 5-10**

**5** This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all. **6** If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; **7** but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. **8** If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. **9** If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. **10** If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us.