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FOUNDATIONS FOR LIFE

STUDENT MANUAL



Ephesians 4:14-16

The Living Bible

"Then we will no longer be like children, forever changing our minds about what we believe because someone has told us something different or has cleverly lied to us and made the lie sound like the truth. Instead, we will lovingly follow the truth at all times—speaking truly, dealing truly, living truly—and so become more and more in every way like Christ who is the Head of his body, the Church. Under his direction, the whole body is fitted together perfectly, and each part in its own special way helps the other parts, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love."

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INTRODUCTION

BENEFITS OF FOUNDATIONS FOR LIFE

Introduction: Benefits of Foundations For Life

Ephesians 4:14-16

The Living Bible

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It is with pleasure that we welcome you to the Foundations For Life of CE Global.

Knowledge is vital and it determines the difference between success and failure (Hosea 4:6). To enjoy a successful Christian life, you require knowledge of the Word to equip you. At Foundations For Life, you will be taught the basic doctrines of Christianity which will set you on course to live the higher life in Christ.

1. Training

“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work” (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

A Christian is a soldier of Christ. A soldier is trained for life and war. Foundations For Life is a place of training for Christians on how to use the weapons available to them in the affairs and battles of life. It is also a place of training in the God life.

2. A place of knowledge

God said: *“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge”* (Hosea 4:6).

Foundations For Life provides you with the knowledge you need to live the overcoming life in Christ. Without the knowledge of your inheritance you cannot lay claim to it because it is through knowledge that the just shall be delivered into his inheritance.

“The hypocrite with his mouth destroys his neighbor, But through knowledge the righteous will be delivered” (Proverbs 11:9).

3. A place for approval

“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15, KJV).

When you study, and have the right understanding in God about His kingdom, God certifies and license you for life. You may be a medical student in training but until you are certified and licensed, you cannot be a medical doctor and therefore not qualified to treat anyone. A man that is not knowledgeable cannot rightly divide the Word of truth; that is knowing the right spiritual principle from the Word of God to apply in every situation in life.

4. A place to help you avoid mistakes in life

“Jesus answered and said to them, ‘You are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God’” (Matthew 22:29).

This is the situation of some Christians currently, because they do not know the Scriptures and so make lots of mistakes in life. If you diligently go through Foundations For Life, this should not be your situation

5. A place for the education of the human spirit in the God life

The Bible talks about being instructed or educated in righteousness (2 Tim 3:16). The education of the human spirit is the most important education anyone can have. When your spirit is properly educated in God; you are made for life. You should never be confused in your life.

6. A place for mind renewal and mind management

“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God” (Romans 12:2).

The Bible talks about renewing our mind for our transformation. We can renew it with the Word of God, because the Word is God’s thoughts. We give Him our thoughts and take His thoughts.



CHAPTER 1

NEW CREATION REALITIES

Chapter 1: New Creation Realities

Introduction

The topic “New Creation Realities” seeks to examine by divine revelation: the nature and life of the man in Christ and the effect of the regenerative power of Christ in his spirit, soul and body. In this chapter we will examine the totality of the new creation, which is composed of three major sections:

- The life of the regenerated human spirit
- The soul and the renewal of the mind
- The body and its discipline (bringing it under subjection)

1.1 The new creation

“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold all things are become new.” 2 Corinthians 5:17 (KJV)

The new creation is the born again child of God, created in Christ Jesus. This Scripture shows that the new creation is not the “reformed”. He never existed before; he has a new life in the Spirit. Ephesians 2:10 says, “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works...”. This goes further to show that the new creation life begins the moment he comes into Christ, because there are no traces of his past. For the new creation, being in Christ Jesus is the first right choice to life, as traditions of men and other primordial considerations such as tribe, colour, wealth and age do not count (Gal. 6:15).

1.2 The new creation is born of God

1 Peter 1:23 says, “...having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the Word of God, which lives and abides forever”. This means that the new creation is born of God; God gave birth to us through His Word and because we believed in Him, we received His divine nature into our spirits. The natural man is born of blood, of the will of the flesh and of the will of man unto a perishable life (John 1:12-13).

1.3 The new creation is a product of grace

The new creation did not get saved by his own ability or power. The new creation got saved because Jesus paid the full price for his sins, thus, the new creation is saved by grace. Ephesians 2:8-9 says that we are saved by grace through faith and not of any man’s good works; it is the gift of God (Rom. 5:17). Grace, which is an unmerited favour, is a divine act that translated one from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of God’s dear Son. The idea of the new creation having a past is mostly common amongst believers who merely see the Christian as “a sinner saved by grace”; one who was once under the power of Satan, but now free to serve God. However, as you grow in the knowledge of the Word of God, you will discover that being born again, you are not one that was taken from the hands of Satan and delivered into the hands of God; you are actually a new creation. You are not he man that was in darkness; that man actually died with Christ. You were born into His marvelous light (Acts 13:33, 2 Cor. 5:17, 1 John 5:11-12, Col. 3:9-10).

1.4 Man

Man, is a spirit, he has a soul and lives in a body (1 Thess. 5:23, Heb. 4:12, Job 10:11). The spirit man is that being that communicates and responds to God by the agency of the Holy Spirit. The spirit gives life to the body and can be allowed to have dominion over the soul and body. The spirit of man is ageless and has a voice, which is his conscience.

1.4.1 The spirit man got saved

“Therefore if any man (spirit) be in Christ, he is a New Creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new” (2 Corinthians 5:17, KJV). The human spirit is created anew in Christ Jesus. “But whoever is united with the Lord is one with Him in spirit” (1 Corinthians 6:17, NIV).

1.4.2 The spirit man lives by the Word of God

The new creation lives by the Word of God. The Word of God is the food the spirit feeds on, where it derives its nourishment from to grow and attain fullness in Christ (1 Pet. 2:2, Matt. 4:4, Heb. 5:12-14).

The fruit of the recreated human spirit in Christ

The new creation has the nature of God imparted into his spirit. Hence the new creation has the character of God in him which he exhibits as the fruit of the recreated spirit: love, joy, peace, long-suffering (patience), gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness and temperance (Gal. 5:22).

1.4.3 The soul of man

The soul houses the mind, the emotion and the intellect or the will.

- a. The mind is the part of the soul that thinks (Luke 9:47). A man’s thoughts are as powerful as his actions and words and therefore can control his body and affect its discipline.
- b. The will/intellect is the part of the soul that makes decisions.
- c. The emotion of man has to do with his feelings.

The soul is the doorway to the spirit; if the mind (soul) of a man is blocked, his spirit becomes inaccessible. The soul has control over the body. It is where a man carries out his reasoning and his recordings.

1.4.4 The renewal of the mind

The renewal of the mind is the responsibility of every child of God and it is a sanctification process that is continuous. Our minds need to be renewed (need to discard the old thoughts and intents and be filled with the knowledge of God’s Word) so that we may know the mind of Christ and walk in His perfect will (Rom. 12:1-3, Eph. 4:22-24). Renewal of the mind brings total transformation to the new creation.

1.4.5 Sanctifying the thoughts

Temptation does not come from God, it is self-contrived because of man’s lustfulness, which gives birth to sin and death. It originates only because our thoughts gave birth to it. Therefore, for you to think the right thoughts, your mind must be focused on God’s Word (James 1:13-15, Isa. 26:3).

1.4.6 The mind is renewed by the Word of God

The new creation is transformed by the Word. As we (as new creations) meditate on the Word of God we become like Him and exactly what His Word says we are. 2 Corinthians 3:18 (KJV) says, “But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord”.

1.4.7 The body and its discipline

The body is the covering of the spirit man (Job 10:11). It is with his body that a man attends to daily life issues. The body, like all other perishable things that exist on earth, is limited by time. The body also gives man the legal right to exist and function here on earth.

1.4.8 Bringing the body under subjection

Now that the new creation is alive in Christ, and has a renewed mind by the Word of God, there is a need to discipline the body. In 1 Cor. 9:24-27, Col. 3:5 and Rom. 6:13-15, the Apostle Paul tells us that conscious effort must be made by the new creation to discipline his body, that is, to bring his body under subjection to fulfil the purpose of his life.



Question by Franklin from Ghana:

Dear Pastor Chris, Biblically, what is the benchmark for defining sin?

Answer: I've taught in good detail on this subject and the title of that teaching is, The Concept of Sin, and I'll ask you to get the tapes or ask for the CDs, audio CDs or DVDs. They will be of immense benefit to you; all the details are in there and you can study more about sin and what the Bible really says it is. The title is, The Concept of Sin.

But, I'll just give you a little idea of what this is and that will begin to help your personal study. I'll read you a few Scriptures. The first one will be from Romans chapter 14. In discussing what to eat and what not to eat and whether eating food made for idols was right or wrong and so on, Paul made a conclusive statement that is very enlightening, "And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith: for whatsoever is not of faith is sin"

(Romans 14:23, KJV). Now, that is the first thing you have to understand because we walk by faith, not by sight. 2 Corinthians 5:7 (KJV) tells us, "...we walk by faith, not by sight". The Bible says in Romans 9:8 that those who are the children of the flesh (which means the children of the senses) are not the children of God. Those who are the children of God are the children of faith. The Bible says that we are the children of faith because we are the children of faithful Abraham. So, we walk by faith.

The Bible says, "...without faith it is impossible to please God..." (Hebrews 11:6, NIV). That tells you how important faith is. Without it, it is impossible to please God. You can not please Him without faith, no matter what you do. So, you need faith and faith is encapsulated in the Gospel. When you hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ, faith comes with it. When you accept the Gospel, faith is automatically imparted to your spirit from day one that you gave your life to Christ.

That's what the Bible tells us in Romans chapter 12, when you read from verse 3, "...God hath dealt to everyone the measure of faith" (Romans 12:3, KJV). It is that seed of faith that is in the Gospel. So, that is the first thing you need to know: that anything that is not of faith is sin. That establishes it. So, in your walk with God, you must walk with Him by faith because whatever you do outside of faith, God says it is sin. The second thing, you'd learn from the next Scriptures I'll read to you. Romans Chapter 13, beginning with verse 8, "Owe no man anything, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law" (Romans 13:8, KJV). He that loves another hath fulfilled the law. Now, he is talking about the law God gave to Moses – the cardinal law of God.

That's what he is looking at. Then he goes on in verse 9 to say, "For this, thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself" (Romans 13:9, KJV). Then in verse 10, he says, "Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law" (Romans 13:10). Love is the fulfilling of the law.

So, there are going to be two things to look at here: fulfilling the law or transgressing the law. You're either fulfilling the law, or you are transgressing the law. So, he says if you walk in love, you fulfil the law. Alright, let me read to you from the 1st Epistle of St. John Chapter 3 in verse 4, "Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law" (1 John 3:4, KJV). Now that is pretty simple: if love is the fulfilling of the law, it means to "not-walk-in-love" is the transgression of the law. If you do not walk in love, you transgress the law.

1.4.9 Assurance for the new creation

a. The Word

The Word of God confirms that we are the children of God because of our confession and belief (Rom. 10:9-11, 1 John 5:9-13). Matthew 12:37 (KJV) says, "For by thy words thou shalt be justified..."

b. The Witness of the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit bears witness with our spirit that we are the children of God (Rom. 8:16).

1.4.10 Remission, forgiveness and the handling of sin:

"In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace" (Ephesians 1:7)

Remission of sin means liberty, release, separation, letting go of the offence as if it never existed. It is totally separated from you and your history as though it never happened. In many places in the Bible where the word "forgiveness" is used, it should have been translated "remission". In Ephesians 1:7 the word forgiveness should read remission (Eph. 1:7, Matt. 26:28). It occurs when a person gets born again, thus it only takes place once, but it includes all offenses present, past and future.

"...in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins" (Colossians 1:14).

When we read the above Scripture, we notice that we have redemption as well as forgiveness. However, in the Church today, we are taught to ask for forgiveness from God, but why should we ask, if we already have it, according to the Bible? Your effectiveness in Christ comes to a fore when you realize you have remission and forgiveness now.

Forgiveness is to pardon. In forgiveness you are released from punishment, even though the record remains. Growing up, some of us might have been taught that the sinner gets remission and the Christian gets forgiveness. That is, when you are born again, your sins are remitted, but afterwards, if you do anything wrong, you receive forgiveness. The Christian should not be getting something lesser than what the sinner got. What we have in Christ is remission of sins. Both the Christian and the sinner gets remission. What then happens when you do something wrong? You are automatically cleansed by the blood of Jesus: "...and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin" (1 John 1:7). Therefore there is a continual cleansing.

The Lord does not have a list of all your wrong doings, because your slate is continuously wiped clean by the blood of Jesus Christ. However, the human mind may still remember their wrong doings and that is where Mark 11:25-26 elaborates this type of forgiveness.

"And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses. But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses" (Mark 11:25-26).

In this instance, the forgiveness of your trespasses are preconditioned on your forgiveness of others as well as yourself.

The new creation has the power of God to live above sin by the help of the Holy Spirit that is at work in him. The Word of God does not encourage sin, rather it builds and strengthens the inner man to live and enjoy a glorious life in Christ (1 John 1:7, 1 John 2:1-2). The more you learn about God, the more you love Him and the more you love Him, the less you want to do wrong. The result of God's love, is more love. The proof of your love is doing His word (John 14:15). The more you get to know Jesus, the more you will love him. The necessary result of love is you wanting to please God. Nothing pleases God more than you genuinely loving Jesus Christ. You can give your life, but without love, it is empty (1 Cor. 13:1). Love is the fulfilment of the law (Rom 13:8-10). The new creation has the power to live above sin by walking in love.

Love is the fulfilling of the law and the opposite of love is selfishness. So, he says, "Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law" (1 John 3:4, KJV). The statement he just made is based on this principle. He says "Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for (which means because) sin is the transgression of the law" (1 John 3:4, KJV). So, that is a principle like he gave us a principle that we read earlier, that whatsoever is not faith is sin. And now he says sin is defined as the transgression of the law and love is the fulfilling of the law.

So, if you do not walk in love, you transgress the law. If you want to know the benchmark for sin – how do you measure sin? How do you know when your act is an act of sin? Or your thought is a thought of sin? Two things: one, is it by faith in God, his Word? Does it fulfil the requirements of love? Which means, is it in love? Because, "faith works by love" (Gal. 5:6). Otherwise, faith would be no faith. Faith in God, faith in His Word, functions by love. So, this is the simple principle for understanding sin, the simple principle for measuring what sin is: Faith and Love.

So, he tells us that all the commandments are fulfilled in one statement, to love your neighbour as yourself. Then, Jesus took it higher, He says, you are to love not as yourself but as Christ loved you. Then, He said, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13, KJV). So, you go beyond – sometimes, some people say I can not please you and displease myself. No! You can please someone even when you did not have pleasure in giving up what you had to give up. See, your pleasure becomes doing what you are supposed to do. You take pleasure in fulfilling God's righteous requirements; when you fulfil the righteousness of God, that should be your joy, not when you fulfil your own desires.

1.5 Who the Christian really is

1.5.1 The Christian is complete in Him (Col. 2:9-19, 1 John 3:2)

Colossians 2:9-10, "For in Him dwells the fullness of the Godhead bodily; and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power." In Christ, you cannot lack anything: As for wisdom, the Bible says Christ has been made unto us wisdom (1 Cor. 1:30). As for health, the Bible says that by his stripes we were healed (1 Peter 2:24). As for wealth the Bible says, "...God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19, KJV).

1.5.2 The Christian has eternal life (John 3:16, John 5:24, 2 Tim. 1:9-10, 1 John 5:11-12)

What is eternal life? Is it possible for a man to live forever and not see death. These are the questions we need to ponder on as we discuss the subject of eternal life. Eternal life is God's kind of life, an everlasting life, a life that cannot be cut short by anything like disease, sickness or death. It is not acquired after a man is dead, like some people think.

a. Eternal life is a gift from God

The Bible says in Romans 5:21 (TLB), "Before, sin ruled over all men and brought them to death, but now God's kindness rules instead, giving us right standing with God and resulting in eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Romans 6:23 says, "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Eternal life is the gift of God. It was imparted into our spirit the moment we got born again. God's love for man brought about the gift of eternal life, this life is in His son Jesus (1 John 5:11-12).

b. Death has been abolished

The Bible says in 2 Timothy 1:10 that Jesus Christ abolished death and has brought life and immortality to light, through the Gospel. Immortality here means "eternal life" or "everlasting life." Legally, death has no hold on the new creation. Death reigned over the fallen human race and the ordinary man had a life span of 70 years, or at most 100 years. But, the recreated human spirit has an everlasting life. Jesus brought life and immortality to light through the Gospel. He lets us know, in John 5:24: "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life." He says, "has passed" not will pass.

This lets us know that the moment we got born again, we passed from death unto life; everlasting life, a life above sickness and death. We do not work for it, just as a new-born baby does not work for its life. We inherited God's kind of life because we are born of Him. We are born of God. God is immortal (1 Tim. 1:17) and Christ has brought life and immortality to us.

1.5.3 The Christian is God's address (Col. 1:27, Eph. 2:21, Acts 17:28)

An address is the particulars of the place where someone lives or where an organization is situated. The new creation is God's house, and therefore His address.

"Do you not know that your body is the temple (the very sanctuary) of the Holy Spirit Who lives within you, Whom you have received [as a Gift] from God? You are not your own," (1 Corinthians 6:19, AMPC).

"To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory" (Colossians 1:27).

1.5.4 The Christian is God's extension (Jer. 51:20-22, Acts 1:8)

The Bible says we are God's extension of his manifested presence on earth. We execute justice, maintain peace through our prayers and reshape situations. Acts 1:8 says, "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you..." - that power is the dynamic ability to cause changes. This honour have all the saints of God (also see Psalm 149:6-9).

1.5.5 The Christian has dominion in life

According to the Oxford Dictionary the word *dominion* means ruler-ship, control, authority and master-ship. When Christ ascended, He transferred His authority to the Church. He is the Head of the Church and believers make up the body. Christ's authority should be perpetuated through His body, which is on the earth. Christ is seated at the right hand of the Father – the place of authority – and we are seated with Him. We died with Christ and we were raised with Him. This is not something God is going to do in the future; He already has done it! As a Christian, you have control or authority over the following:

a. Over the world (1 John 5:4, 1 John 4:4)

The Bible refers to the devil as the god of this world (2 Cor. 4:4). However, Jesus spoiled principalities and powers (the devils) and made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it (Col. 2:15). Though the devil is the god of this world, Jesus has defeated him. The Bible says in Ephesians 3:17, that Christ dwells in our heart by faith and therefore it is expressly declared in the book of 1 John 4:4 (KJV), that we are of God and "...greater is he (Christ) that is in you, than he that is in the world".

1 John 5:4 also states that whatever is born of God overcomes the world. We must remember that although we are in the world, we are not of the world. Satan is running a lot of what is here on earth, but he is not running us. He is not running the Church. He is not dominating us, but we are to dominate him.

Jesus said, "Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you" (Luke 10:19, KJV).

b. Over life circumstances (Rom. 5:17, KJV)

The Scripture above states that, *“For if by one man’s offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.”*

Through Christ’s obedience, and the things He suffered, He became the source of eternal salvation and man received the ability to reign in all circumstances. God’s plan for us is that we rule and reign in life as kings: to rule and reign over circumstances, poverty, disease and everything else that would hinder us. We reign because we have authority. We reign by Jesus Christ in this life. Ephesians 1:22-23 (AMPC) goes on to say, *“And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church. And He has put all things under His feet and has appointed Him the universal and supreme Head of the church [a headship exercised throughout the church], Which is His body, the fullness of Him Who fills all in all [for in that body lives the full measure of Him Who makes everything complete, and Who fills everything everywhere with Himself].”*

c. Over sin

Romans 6:14: *“For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under the law but under grace.”* Now how did sin come? Romans 7:8 (AMPC), says *“But sin, finding opportunity in the commandment [to express itself], got a hold on me and aroused and stimulated all kinds of forbidden desires (lust, covetousness). For without the Law sin is dead [the sense of it is inactive and a lifeless thing]”. So, sin came through the law, but Jesus said in Matthew 5:17 (KJV), “Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill”. John 19:30 (KJV) says, “When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished” – making this the fulfillment of the law. So, if any man be in Christ he has fulfilled the law and therefore is not under the law and as a result of this, sin is dead to him or rather he is dead to sin.*

1.5.6 The Christian has the ‘I can do’ mentality (Phil. 4:13, Matt. 19:26, Mark 11:24)

Philippians 4:13 states, *“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”* The word “Christ” here does not refer to Jesus, but rather to the Holy Spirit (The Anointing). In John 1:12-13 it is seen that we have received power to live as sons of God. 2 Peter 1:3 says, *“as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue”. The power to do all things has been given to us; what we need to know is how to make use of the power. From the Scriptures above, in order to make use or take advantage of the power, we have to grow in the knowledge of the Word.*

1.6 What it means to be a Christian

“...that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved” (Romans 10:9). For it is with your heart that you believe unto righteousness and are justified and with your mouth you confess and are saved (Rom. 10:9-10).

Nobody can be born again, until the proclamation of the Lordship of Jesus. To become a Christian, you must proclaim the Lordship of Jesus over your life. Confessing the Lordship of Jesus Christ is so vital, because that is what gives Him the right over your life. Until a person confesses Jesus as Lord of their life, he/she is in the kingdom of darkness, separated from God and under the dominion of Satan, whose aim is to kill, steal and destroy. This person is on the way to hell and Satan has a legal right on this person’s life.

“But thank God, the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared...” (Titus 3:4), and we made Him the Lord of our lives. This is what being a Christian signifies. When you give your heart to Christ and say Jesus is Lord of your life, it means that you have given Jesus the authority over your life. It does not stop here. It also means that He has given you His life and made you a joint-heir with Him and a partaker of His divine nature.

1.6.1 Being a Christian means: You are a Son of God (1 John 3:1-3, John 1:12-14, Rom. 8:16-17)

John 1:12-13 states clearly that we are empowered unto son-ship once we receive Christ by accepting the Gospel, and the Holy Spirit confirms this.

1.6.2 Being a Christian means: You are a Citizen of Zion (Heb. 12:22-24, Col. 1:13, John 17:14)

*“The Lord loves the gates of Zion
More than the dwellings of Jacob.
Glorious things are said of you,
O city of God! Selah”* (Psalm 87:2-3).

The Church of Jesus Christ is called the city of God. The Bible states clearly in Hebrews 12:22-23 (NIV), *“But you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven...”*.

You are a citizen of Zion, and as a citizen of Zion, you live above sickness and disease. The Bible says, *“And the inhabitant shall not say, I am sick...”* (Isaiah 33:24, KJV). The inhabitants of Zion do not fall sick, because their lives do not come from blood, but from the Word of God. Also, as a citizen of Zion, you function as a king and as a priest, *“But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people”* (1 Peter 2:9, KJV). You minister to God as a priest (Heb. 8:3) and declare words of power as a king (Ecc. 8:4).

God has ordained every citizen of Zion to a victorious life on the earth. Some Christians do not understand this because they think Zion refers to heaven. No, Zion does not refer to heaven. Heaven is actually a geographical location in Zion. That is why you need to understand that the Gospel of Jesus Christ is not all about heaven; it is about the whole kingdom of God, from earth to heaven.

1.6.3 Being a Christian means: You sit in Christ’s place of authority (Eph. 1:19-21, Eph. 2:6, 10, Matt. 28:18-19, Mark 16:16-18)

See Ephesians 1:19-21 with emphasis on verse 20 and 21, *“which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come”. Ephesians 2:6 says, “...and raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus”. From these scriptures, it is evident that we are seated where Christ is seated – a place of power.*

1.7 Conclusion

The new creation is the man born anew in Christ. When he got born again, he received eternal life on this earth, not in heaven. He is transformed by the renewal of his mind through the Word of God. And he is required to subdue and gain the mastery over his body and its senses by putting the Word of God above all else.

1.8 Course review

The teacher should round up by asking the following questions to know how well the students understood the lessons.

- Who is a new creation and how does one become a new creation?
- Who is Man? State and describe the various components of man as taught.
- How can one know that one is saved?
- How can the converted handle their mistakes?

- e. What is the difference between forgiveness of sin and remission of sin?
- f. There are 2 ways to be born of God. True or False?
- g. What is “the Spirit Man”?
- h. What are the characteristics of “the Spirit Man”?
- i. What are the rights of and assurances for the new creation?
- j. What distinguishes the Old Testament and the New Testament, based on sin?
- k. How then can we handle sin?

1.9 Group discussion and assignment

How will the study of the Word of God affect a man's _____?

- a. Spirit
- b. Soul
- c. Body

1.10 Self evaluation and assessment

- a. The new creation is the man born anew in Christ and has his mind renewed by the Word of God that transformed him. He subdues and gains the mastery over his body by doing the Word of God. Therefore, renewal was my bedrock and I must understand it and respond to its legacies.
- b. The mind is the doorway to the spirit and the body of a man. Deity gets to the man through the mind, that is through his thoughts. Therefore, it is necessary that I gain control over my mind and discipline it based on my reasoning and recording systems.
- c. The new creation is transformed by the Word. As I meditate on the Word of God, I become like Him and exactly what His Word says I am, by the transforming power of His Word.
- d. Through the functionality of the works of Christ, and knowledge and understanding of the character of God, dynamism is invoked in my spirit and I also live on with the characteristics of the new creation.

1.11 Recommended ministry materials

DVD/Audio CDs

Explaining Christianity
 Growing in the Word
 The New Superman
 The Newness of Life, Volume 1 and 2
 The Essence of Christianity
 7 Uplifting Facts of Life in Christ
 Facts and Foundations Part 1

Books

Recreating Your World
 How to Make Your Faith Work
 The Power of Your Mind
 Now That You Are Born Again