

THE NEW LIFE

Part 2 of THE LIFE JESUS OFFERS. John 1:1-13.
Peter Foxwell. Cornerstone Church. April 2, 2023.

UPGRADE OR FRESH START?

The dilemma: should we upgrade our home or buy new?

- The parallel in the spiritual realm: upgrade our lives or start fresh?
- The Bible teaches us that self-improvement leads to failure.
- Instead, we would seek the new life God offers us in Christ.

The key to a flourishing life isn't reformation (improving the old), it's transformation (starting new).

- New life in Christ is transformational.
- What is new life in Christ, and how can we have it?

JOHN 1:1-13

Christ the Creator: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. 4 In him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

John the Witness to Christ: 6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. 8 He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

Christ the Transformer: 9 The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. 11 He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. 12 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, 13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

WHAT IS NEW LIFE IN CHRIST? - verse 13

New life in Christ is God's life in us.

- The background is God's relationship with Israel.

Deuteronomy 14:1-2 (ESV) "You are the sons of the LORD your God. ... 2 ... you are a people holy to the LORD your God, and the LORD has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession ..."

- Calling them his children, emphasized three things:

- It was a fresh start as God's people
- God was the one giving this new life to them
- They were under God's loving care.

- John used the same language to describe those who receive Jesus. We are God's children because we are born of God. God's life is in us.

- Jesus called the life of God in us eternal life. He defined it:

John 17:1-4 (ESV) ... 3 And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

- God puts his life in us so we can know him.

HOW CAN WE RECEIVE NEW LIFE FROM JESUS? - verse 12

We have new life in Christ when we receive him.

- The Greek word means to take hold of or to seize.
- It is the same as believing in his name - all he is and does.
- Wholeheartedly embracing, committing to, trusting in the person and work of Jesus. For example:

John 6:51-53 (ESV) I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of

the world is my flesh.” 52 The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?” 53 So Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. 54 Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.

- Flesh and blood is the phrase Jesus used to predict his crucifixion.
- Eat and drink is the phrase Jesus used to describe believe/receive. It implies total, unreserved acceptance and trust,

WE ALL NEED THE NEW LIFE JESUS OFFERS

John draws a line between two kinds of life.

- The old life is darkness. We reject Jesus. We do life without God.
- The new life is light. We embrace Jesus and connect to God.

Remember: The key to a flourishing life is new life in Christ.

- We need transformation, not reformation.
- So, reach out in prayer to receive Jesus.

Got questions? Want to know more?

- Please ask me.
- Visit our book table. It has several helpful resources.

CORNERSTONE GROUPS - TALK IT OVER

Pick one or more of these questions to discuss this week.

Review Sunday's teaching on John 1:1-13.

- Review Sunday's study guide or watch Peter's teaching on YouTube.
- What part of the teaching most impacted your thinking?
- Summarize the main ideas in your own words.

Prayerfully apply the teachings of John 1:1-13.

- What are some ways people use to upgrade their lives without Jesus? What is the appeal? What are the methods? How well do they work?
- Was there a season when you rejected Jesus? What were your reasons?
- Describe what it's like to know that you are God's child, and he has taken full responsibility for you.
- Discuss how knowing God has changed your perspective on life. How has it changed your perception of the meaning of life, etc?

Pray together. Be bold.

Lord Jesus Christ, we praise you. You are the maker of all things, and you are the source of life. When we received you, and believed in your name, everything changed. We were born again and became the children of God. We live under his loving care every day. Your gift of eternal life has opened our eyes to know you, and to discover the meaning and purpose of our lives. Thank you for everything. Amen!

Preparation for Next Sunday.

- William Still on Romans 6: tapesfromscotland.org/Audio4/4186.mp3.
- John Piper on Romans 6: www.desiringgod.org/messages/are-we-to-continue-in-sin-that-grace-might-increase