

INTRODUCTION

- * As we enter into a new year, it is generally a time to consider the past and the future, and the changes which we have experienced. It is a time, for many, to institute new "positive" changes, or habits.
- * Additionally, it is also the first Sunday of the month. As an assembly we traditionally hold our commemoration of the Lord's Supper on the first Sunday of the month. The weeks preceding these commemorations are also good times to assess my relationship with Christ. We are told in 1 Corinthians 11 to examine ourselves to determine whether we are participating in this sacred event in an "unworthy manner." In fact, Paul declares that some were sick and even dying as a result of not treating the commemoration in a sacred manner.
- * As I pondered the convergence of these two opportunities to examine myself, I thought it would be good for us to relook at who we are - and/or should be - in Christ. It is easy to begin to take the gift that God has given us for granted and be distracted by the world. It is good to assess my level of commitment and seek His wisdom for the future.

INSTRUCTION**I. THE DE _____ OF THE NEW CREATION****A. The C _____ (cf. 4:7-5:16)**

1. THE PROMISE OF A G _____ (cf. 4:7-5:8)

a. We are E _____ Vessels

b. We are E _____ Beings (cf. Philippians 3:20-21; 1 Corinthians 15:51-54)

2. THE PROMISE OF A R _____ (cf. 5:9-16; Hebrews 9:27-28; 1 Corinthians 3:11-15)

a. Knowing The F _____ of God P _____ Us (v. 10-11; cf. Matt 10:28; Heb 10:31; Psalm 19:9; 34:11; 111:10; Prov 1:7; 9:10)

b. Knowing The L _____ of Christ C _____ Us (v. 13; cf. Ephesians 3:17-19; 1 John 4:7-12; Matthew 5:43-48; Romans 5:8)

B. The C _____ (cf. Romans 8:1; John 15:4-8)**C. The C _____****II. THE D _____ OF THE NEW CREATION****A. We Become M _____ of R _____ (v. 18-19)**

1. GOD INITIATED THE RECONCILIATION FOR US

a. He has reconciled _____ (v. 18)

b. He has reconciled _____ (v. 19; 1 John 2:1)

2. GOD APPOINTED THE MESSAGE OF RECONCILIATION TO US

B. We Become A _____ of C _____ (v. 20; 1 Tim 2:3-4)**C. We Become The R _____ of G _____ (v. 21)****INTROSPECTION**

- * If you are in Christ, you are a new creation with a new focus and a new calling. How does your life compare with that statement?
- * What message do your lips and life declare?
- * Are you an Ambassador of Reconciliation, serving on behalf of Christ?
- * Is there a need to change the way you think ... and therefore act?

INTERACTION ... Thoughts & Questions to ponder for later discussion

- * Read Colossians 3:1-4:6. What are some of the ways that our "new creation" is revealed in us?