

A NEW CREATURE

Anyone who has small children or has been around them very much knows that they are born with their own personalities and peculiar tendencies. In some ways, the personality that a child has at birth will not change significantly throughout his life. The sooner parents recognize this about their child, the better they will be able to train him in a way that is most suitable to his particular tendencies.

Even though children are born with some inherent characteristics, let us understand that children certainly are not born with the corruption and guilt that comes by sin. This is the false assertion of the Calvinistic doctrine of total depravity and the Roman Catholic doctrine of original sin. According to the doctrine of total depravity, man is by nature completely corrupt and incapable of any good whatsoever because of the sin of Adam and Eve. According to the doctrine of original sin, every soul inherits the guilt of Adam and Eve. The Bible does not teach these doctrines, but instead it teaches that each soul is accountable for his own actions alone and not those of others (**Jer. 31:29-30; Ezek. 18:2-4; Rom. 9:10-11; 2 Cor. 5:10**).

In truth, corruption, evil, and sin are learned by mankind from the world. Notice **1 John 2:16** - "For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world." God does not send souls into the world preinstalled with these wicked tendencies, but these are the things of the world that corrupt the pure souls that God creates. Man is not sinful by nature, but he learns sin as a "second nature."

Thankfully, God gives us an opportunity to strip away the corruption that we have learned from the world

and start anew. Notice **2 Peter 1:4** - "Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust." In this verse, the phrase "by these" refers to the things mentioned in the previous verse - "God's divine power," "everything pertaining to life and godliness," and "the knowledge of Him who called us." By these things, we can undo the damage that has been done to us through the things of the world.

Because of this new start, the Bible often describes a Christian as a "new creature." For example, Paul wrote, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (**2 Cor. 5:17**). Similar messages are given in **Galatians 6:15, Ephesians 4:20-24, and Colossians 3:10**. Although a Christian is still the same person as he was before He knew Christ, God has remade him with a new quality about him. His physical form is unchanged, but everything about his spirit is new. He has become a partaker of that "divine nature" (**2 Pet. 1:4**). In Christ, he "in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth" (**Eph. 4:24**). Rather than having a sinful "second nature" that he learned from the world, he learns a godly nature. The corruption from the world is taken away, and spiritually he is once again as he was when he was born - a new creature.

As a new creature, a Christian needs instruction and discipline. Like a child, he has much to learn. He will make mistakes that will require correction. Thankfully, God the Father provides the instruction and discipline that "yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness" (**Heb. 12:4-11**). The love of the Father will cultivate within him the divine nature of which he is now a partaker.

Therefore, let us embrace this opportunity to start over. Our lives that have been ruined by sin can be saved and given a second chance to fulfill their purpose. We were made in the image of God (**Gen. 1:27**), but that image was marred by sin. Now in Christ, we can be renewed to that image and begin again. Take the opportunity, be thankful, and praise God that you can be a new creature in Christ.

Stacey Durham adapted *Charlottesville Beacon*

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BIRTHDAYS

Evan Pflugradt, 07-07; Jeff Nemechek, 07-08.

ILL

Sunday: Millie Robertson; Steven Schleif (AM).

Wednesday: Millie Robertson.

Marion Stone is in the Hoeger House for rehabilitation.

Those battling cancer: Ledgia Campbell, Betty James and Cleo Stone. Please remember these in your prayers.

HOME BOUND

Kathleen Camp is in Room 101 at the Royal Terrace Nursing Home in Olathe. Marion Stone is at home. Barbara James' Aunt, Evelyn Marquardt is at the Sweet Life of Rosehill in Shawnee. Please remember these in your prayers and visitation.

RESTORATION

Melissa Cole came forward Sunday evening, July 28 stating that she had not lived true to God's Word and prayers were offered in her behalf. We rejoice in her decision to return to the ranks of the faithful.

OUT OF TOWN

Chris Edwards was away on business in Chicago last week. The Nelsons are on a West coast cruise. The Thomas, Carter and Marcum families are vacationing in Colorado this week.

POT LUCK DINNER

Our monthly Pot Luck Dinner will be held this Sunday, July 5th following our AM worship. Plan to bring a dish and enjoy the good food and good company!

MEN'S BUSINESS MEETING

Our monthly Men's Business Meeting will be held next Sunday, July 12 following our AM worship.

ATTENDANCE

Sunday AM, 43; Sunday PM, 35; Wednesday PM, 30.

Those To Serve

July 5, 2009

BUILDING AND COMMUNION.....Thrasher (2)

MORNING WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS.....Trent Thrasher
SONG LEADER.....Joel Nelson
OPENING PRAYER.....Jared Nelson
PRESIDE.....Jeff Nemechek
ASSIST.....John Cody Carter
ASSIST.....Dave Parish
CLOSING PRAYER.....George Thomas

EVENING WORSHIP

OPENING PRAYER.....John Dodson
CLOSING PRAYER.....Chris Edwards
LORD'S SUPPER.....Jeff Nemechek

WEDNESDAY 8th

SONG LEADER.....Ted Thrasher
INVITATION.....George Thomas

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday

Bible Study 9:30 AM
Morning Worship 10:30 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Ladies Bible Study 10:00 AM
Bible Study 7:00 PM

Preacher: Ted J. Thrasher

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