

## BECOMING A CHRISTIAN MAKES A PERSON NEW

### 2 Corinthians 5:17

**Introduction:** Everybody at one time or other wishes he/she could start over, redo some things, or even be somebody else. Becoming a Christian does all of that for a Christian's life is changed in every aspect and he/she is indeed made a new person by his/her belief in Jesus Christ. The same body, yes, but lots of things change. Lets take a look at some differences after becoming a Christian.

1. The new "man" in Christ is not and cannot be perfect in holiness, love and purity.
  - The new "man" also keeps his/her old sin nature and will continue to fall short of the glory and goodness and the beauty of God.
2. The new "man" in Christ is not callous, insensitive or especially protected.
  - The new "man" in Christ will continue to have his/her share of troubles, hardships, pain, sorrows and suffering.
3. The new "man" in Christ is not and will never be 100 percent successful in everything.
  - He/she will continue to have his/her share of failures and disappointments and may be troubled on every side, yet being in Christ, he/she is a new creation.
  - A difference is that troubles and problems will not drive him/her to despair anymore.
4. The new "man" in Christ does not know the answers to all of the world problems.
  - His/her knowledge is limited as is everyone else's.
  - He/she is aware of the world's troubles, suffering, pain and doesn't seem to be able to do much to relieve any of it.
  - He/she is still puzzled about sickness, pain and suffering which people undergo.
  - However when he/she is afflicted with the world's troubles such as sickness, suffering, difficulties and pain, he/she is not frightened into looking for some deadly escape.
5. The new "man" in Christ is perplexed by the victories that appear to be of Satan and therefore evil.
  - Natural disasters puzzle the new "man" in Christ and he/she is aware that he/she, too might some day be forced into that "valley of the shadow" where he/she will cry out "My God, My God..."
  - Yet with all this around him/her, the new "man" in Christ lives free from fearful anticipation.
6. The new "man" in Christ knows that he/she has no final explanation about how things began or how they will end.
  - He/she knows that even being new "in Christ" he/she will never grasp and understand all the mysteries of life, his/her own existence, and especially God's work.
  - Yet with all that he/she cannot grasp or understand he/she is still not frightened.
7. The new "man" in Christ is not driven to despair because he/she is reconciled (at peace) with his/her existence, with nature, with his/her destiny or with God Himself, all this coming about because God accepts us all just like we are and all we need to do is to accept HIS acceptance of us.

8. The new "man" in Christ may be afflicted in many ways, but he/she is not crushed by what happens.
  - God will always be there to help the Christian, those who believe in His Son.
  - So the new "man" in Christ may be slowed down but he/she will never be penned in or stopped.
  - God opened the door in Egypt for His people to leave and when they hungered and thirsted in the wilderness, He fed them and gave them water and when it came time to cross the flooded Jordan river, God made a way.
  - The new "man" in Christ is never crushed by his/her afflictions because he/she knows that God's help and resources will always be there for him/her.
  
9. The new "man" in Christ may be destined to experience severe difficulties, trials, tribulations, loneliness, even "thorns" in the flesh, nakedness, famine, peril or the sword, yet he/she is going to remain steadfast and uncrushed because he/she knows that God has allowed those things in his/her life for a purpose.
  
10. The new "man" in Christ is not crushed by his/her afflictions because he/she bravely accepts them.
  - He/she accepts God's free flowing grace and becomes rooted, grounded and anchored in Jesus Christ, where new life, new power, new vitality, new energy, new confidence, new trust and a new Spirit are found.
  
11. The new "man" in Christ has an outgoing purpose in life.
  - It is human nature to think of self preservation and not all of that is bad, such as health, strength, energy.
  - Yet the life of a "person" in Christ is not centered in self preservation, self protection, self security, or self salvation.
  - The new life in Christ has a larger purpose and that is to extend a hand, give a lift, to build a dream, to manifest love and appreciation to others.
  - Jesus' life was different - He left His carpentry work to take on a mission without pay, and it appeared that the mission failed, yet He was the most successful Man among us all.
    - Jesus had no worldly security, yet He was so secure that He could stoop down and wash the feet of His disciples.
    - Jesus went to eat with people not because He wanted to influence them or get something from them, but because He wanted to give to them a new life.

## CONCLUSION:

1. A "New Life" in Jesus Christ awaits whoever wants it. It is available to everyone.
2. The old life has to be let go in order to receive the "new life" Jesus offers.
3. The "new life" in Christ does not replace the human nature life all have been born with, it is along side it but it is a far better way of life than the Old Sinful Nature way of life.
4. To have the "new life" in Christ one needs only to turn to God with the words of the prodigal son who said, "*...I will arise and go to my Father...*" (*Luke 15:18*)