

The Liberated Self

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"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

~ II Corinthians 5:17

*M*any struggle in their Christian walk to find deliverance from themselves.

Even those who have come to understand that they are new creatures in the Lord Jesus Christ often believe that they are still their old selves too. They have been led to believe that there are two of themselves somehow residing inside of them, the misconception being that they are always fighting an inward civil war for control – fighting to live, fighting to gain control, fighting for supremacy, fighting to have the dominant expression.

Remarkably, this is all some strange type of religious schizophrenia. It is a tiresome and burdensome struggle of the imagination. What is so sad is that nothing could be farther from the truth.

Listen to these words:

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature ..."

ONE ME

There is only one me. I am a new creature. I have not been rehabilitated.

I am one person, not two. I am not two creatures; I am a one "new creature" – a totally new creation of God.

"... Old things are passed away ..."

My former self, my old identity, the old me is dead and gone. It has “*passed away.*” It died with Christ. It is not who I am anymore – regardless of what I may think or do to the contrary!

“... *Behold, all things are become new*”

Now everything has changed. “*All things*” are new. Nothing is old.

My former self (my old identity in Adam) is forever gone. It died with Christ.

My new self (my new life and identity in Christ) is here to stay. I am alive in Christ.

There are not two of me. There is only one. There was an old me that used to be – now a has-been. Then there is the new me, now alive with divine life.

ONE NATURE

I do not have two natures. I had an old one that used to be. I have a new one that now is. The battle is not an inward struggle between two me’s.

Not that there’s not a battle. It is just that it’s a battle of faith. The battle is about believing what God says is now true about me. It centers in me believing that I am who God says that I am.

Many are seeking to be liberated from themselves. They think that they are in the midst of a great battle between their two selves – their two natures. This is not what the Scriptures teach!

Paul clearly writes that we,

“... **WERE by nature** *the children of wrath* ...” (Ephesians 2:3).

A new nature has not been added to our old one. This would only be confusion, and God is not the author of that (I Corinthians 14:33). What we were by nature in Adam is in the past; it is – “*were.*”

Christ once-and-for-all dealt with my former self at the cross. He has now made me a new self.

I am not now liberated from myself. I am liberated to be myself. I am now free to be who I really am: the real me – the only me that there is – the new creature that God has made me in Christ.

ONE LIFE

“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, Who loved me, and gave Himself for me” (Galatians 2:20).

My former identity – my old “I” – was my identity as the son of Adam. My new identity – my new “I” – is my identity as the glorious son of God.

My old “I” is that of molded conformity – of human uniformity. As a son of Adam I was from birth ever pressed into the cast of sameness.

My former “I” is just that – it was crucified (executed) with Christ – *“I am crucified with Christ ...”*

My new “I” is just that – new – brand new. It is the “I” of Christ living in me. It is the new *“life which I **now** live in the flesh ...”* My new life is His life. It is the only life I now have.

ONE IDENTITY

I do not have two identities. I had an old one, now I have a new one – one former, one present.

My new identity – the new “I” – is that of unique design of divine distinctiveness. As a son of God I am now free to be that one-of-a-kind individual that God has created me to be – filled and made vibrant with His dynamic life living in and through me.

“I [a son of Adam] am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I [a son of God] live; yet not I [the ‘I’ of the old creation], but Christ liveth in me [the ‘me’ of the new creation]: and the life [the divine ‘life’ of God] which I [the unique person that God has made me to be] now live in the flesh [my flesh, right now, this very day] I live by the faith of the Son of God, Who loved me, and gave Himself for me” (Galatians 2:20).

THE REALIZATION OF THE LIBERATED SELF

People are always talking about their attempts to discover their true selves – their efforts of trying to “find themselves.” The believer in the Lord Jesus Christ needs to find out who they really are. This need not be such a difficult search. All that is really needed is a careful look at the Scriptures, and a simple faith in the words of who God says that we are. God knows who we are; all we need do is believe Him.

The new me is ... the me of union with Christ. It is His life. It is His life exchanged for my past one. This is the truth of the divinely exchanged life. It is the great exchange. Indeed it is the greatest of all exchanges.

Understanding and believing these glorious truths will allow me the freedom to be at rest with my new self – free to be the real me, the new man, the only me that there is – the me in Christ.

I have not been liberated from myself. My former self has died with Christ and I have now been liberated from my old man to be myself – the self He has made me in Christ.

Refuse to be the shell of a person, pushed into a mold of Adamic conformity. Be the real you that God has uniquely designed you to be. Refuse to be bullied out of your divinely designed identity that your Father has given you.

I am who God says that I am.

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