

Levels of Change – Notes 2

The Opposition to our New Identity

The world tries to change things from environment to behavior to capabilities. Jesus gives us a new identity changing what we believe about ourself. These new beliefs have an affect on our capabilities, our behavior and how we become the influence in our environment.

Sin is thought to be expressed as a dysfunction in our behavior, our thoughts and our feelings.
I should have done... and didn't.
I shouldn't have done... and did any way.

Trap 1:

When we believe sin is a behavior problem we try to change the symptom not the problem.

Trap 2:

We are told behavior is the problem so we bring the whole solution to fix only part of the problem. When we bring our behavior to the Cross we are only bringing the past to the Cross. We don't need the past changed. We need help with the present and the future.

When we consider sin as a behavior issue we are addressing the fruit and not the root of our problem. Sin is the absence of God in the human soul. The absence of God is death. We have been cut off from the Source of Life in us. This is the death that Adam experienced when all of creation changed. Jesus did not die just for what we have done. He died for who we are.

Sin is the outward expression of our need to fill the hole left in us by the absence of God. This can be expressed as drunkenness, sexual immorality, a workaholic, our religious practices and even be our ministry focused performance. Behavior is the fruit of our problem not the root. When we understand and believe that Jesus came to exchange the death in us for life we are able to accept the past, have peace in our present and have faith in our future.

When we become a new creation we are a new self not a new expectation. Salvation is not a theory, something we study. Salvation is something we do. We receive God's gift of a new spirit, a new heart and a new nature to replace our old self and our old nature.

As Paul said it in 2 Corinthians 5:17; *therefore, if anyone is in Christ, they are a new creation; the old has gone and the new has come.*

A new creation is something that has been brought into existence. God does not renovate He innovates. We have not been rehabilitated we have been re-created. This is our new state and identity in Christ. It is this mindset and perspective we must adopt daily to keep from falling into old, entrapping thought patterns and behaviors.

3 Layers of Opposition

The action of our enemy is to convince us the old has not gone and the new us is not real, but only an illusion.

Demonic Oppression:

The enemy opposes us where we are the most vulnerable. In America we live in a materialistic and intellectual society. We define reality by what we can touch, see and reason with (accept) in our mind. This establishes the way the enemy is going to attack our identity is in our thoughts.

The method of approach in the attack is to start with what we are familiar with. This is how he gets us to open the door for him. He starts a song we like in our mind, we finish it. In the song we like a thought comes into our mind trying to get us to agree with him on something that we are sensitive too. This can be wrongs, perceptions driven by false beliefs, strengths, ideals, etc.

The goal is get us to dwell, to meditate on what does not line up with who we now are as we are beginning, trying or succeeding in aligning our beliefs, thoughts and actions up with God's divine design, our true identity and order for life. This steals our convictions related to our new experiences affirming our new self and getting us to realign with our old self, the self we are so very familiar with. We end up dismissing our new programming and reaffirming our old nature with the false truths and misinterpreted experiences.

The World:

The world system is ruled by Satan as the current ruler of this world. The kingdom is all about God and His children, His family. The world is all about me... What is in for me? How can I get what I Want?

To do this common sense and letting the minority rule are the tools and strategies most favored in America for our world-view. The definitions and meanings are all being flipped. Right is now wrong and wrongs are now justified as right, acceptable and okay. The standard for truth and excellence becomes our own thinking. We are now the purveyor, diviner and designer for our own truth and destiny.

When the Church, the body of Christ, strays from God's order and hearing His voice for leading His people the world's thinking begins to take over. Justifying, manipulating and diminishing the value of who we are as God's child and participants in an eternal family become tools for our success in the name of helping others.

The Flesh:

The flesh is wrapped around our nature, containing the essence of our being for our soul and spirit. We are a triune being made in the image of God our Creator as body, soul and spirit. The mind is where all three of our beings connect to communicate joining the spiritual and the physical. Our mind is our filter for understanding both known/reason and unknown/intuitive information as well as revelation.

Three characters are central to our flesh:

- 1) The old man: our sin nature or fallen nature contained within our soul.
- 2) Flesh: our circulatory, digestive and nervous systems feeding, sustaining and stimulating our muscles, skeletal structures, vision and brain functions. The nervous system is central to communicating with our mind the information passed on and accumulated by our senses of seeing, hearing, smelling, feeling/touch and taste.
- 3) New nature: The spirit contains our new nature, our new heart and the character of God. Our new nature is working its way to the outside from the inside. To do this we are reprogramming our thoughts and our beliefs; renewing our mind and receiving revelation for who God is to us and who we now are. This is the unveiling of the blueprint God has in His heart for who He created each of us uniquely to be.

Our new experiences as we walk in the truths for living life to the fullest God's way are beginning to affirm His truths and replacing the false beliefs the world system, our experiences interpreted as our own source and our being wounded in life have convinced us are true.

As Paul said in Romans 7:19 (NLT)

For the good that I want, I do not do, but I practice the very evil that I do not want.

We read and study the Holy Bible, we pray- having conversations with our God and friend- and participate in life with other believers walking with Jesus as the Lord of their life so that we are reprogramming our ability to interact with the world bringing the kingdom of God into our present reality not as a future event.

Questions to ask yourself

What are some of my experiences that don't line up with God's Word?

What are some of the ways I was attacked this week trying to keep me from growing in understanding God's truth for me and seeing myself as a new creation?

What are some of the ways my beliefs have changed affecting how I see myself?