

Growing In Christ

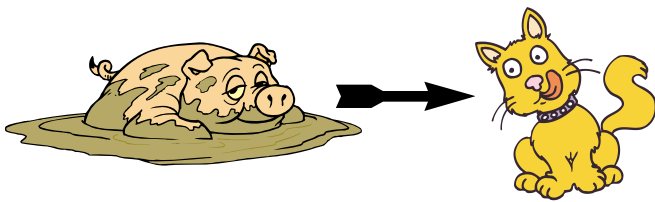
Follow-Up #4



In the third lesson, we learned that Christ's Spirit lives in you, giving you the power to live your new Christian life. Now let's focus on your new identity in Christ, and how you can grow spiritually.



Look at a hammer and a screw driver. Both have individual different uses and roles. When you become a Christian, you do not remain the same, you totally change. A hammer's purpose is to hammer nails. It is not intended to drive in screws as a screwdriver does. The change that goes on inside a Christian would be similar to a hammer being transformed into a screwdriver. It would no longer have the purpose of driving in nails. It would have a totally different function and purpose- it would be a new creation.



A pig is known as being a dirty animal. It can be washed clean, but it's natural tendency is to return to the mud and wallow around. It is unnatural to see a pig clean himself. It is not a part of its nature. A cat on the other hand can become dirty, but its natural tendency is to lick himself until he becomes clean. You cannot train a pig to clean himself.

A NEW IDENTITY

The Bible says something very important about you, now that you have received Christ. Explain in your **own** words what 2 Corinthians 5:17 tells you.

Did you know that when you invited Christ into your life, you became a new creation in Jesus Christ? You could say that you have a new identity. Sure, there are still a lot of things that are the same about you. You may or may not feel real different, and your personality is the same. But in a spiritual sense...in your relationship to God, your sins have been forgiven and you are a new person. How do you think you've been made new?

What changes have you seen?

If God has given you a new spiritual life, and His Holy Spirit to help you live your new life, then you can be sure that He knows just what you need in order to grow and to be fulfilled. After all, since you are His new creation, He has the blueprint that is the very best.

In Ephesians 2:10 we learn more about your new life. In your **own** words, what does it say?

Define "workmanship"-

Before you received Christ, there were probably things you were doing to try to find happiness and satisfaction. Can you think of some?

Do you know that now, as God's new child, He has some things for you to do that will be **much more meaningful**? God has designed you to be fulfilled as you are **obedient** to do the new things, the good works, that He already laid out in advance for you.

Let's look at several of these things. This is not a list of works for you to perform, but these are things that the Lord will give you a desire for.

①②③④⑤

① OBEDIENCE

Read John 14:21 and explain one way we show our love to the Lord.

In what ways can we put our faith into action?

② PRAYER -- TALKING TO GOD

Read Philippians 4:6-7 and explain why prayer is so important.

It is good to pray often and communicate with God, thanking Him for all that He is doing, and telling Him of your needs. Prayer is your new privilege as a child of God.

③ FELLOWSHIP -- FRIENDSHIP WITH OTHER CHRISTIANS

As a new Christian, you are part of a family with many other Christian brothers and sisters.

What are several good reasons why you should spend time with your new Christian friends? (Hebrews 10:24-25; Proverbs 27:17)

Who are some new Christian friends with whom you can begin to spend time?

④ BIBLE STUDY -- GOD TALKS TO YOU

How does the Bible (God's Word) help you? (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

As you read and study God's Word, your faith in Christ and the intimacy of your relationship will grow. Many of your needs will be met through the knowledge you gain from the Bible.

According to 1 Peter 2:2, what other benefit do you see from studying the Bible?

⑤ WITNESSING -- SHARING CHRIST WITH OTHERS

What is the most important thing that has ever happened to you?
What is the most important thing you can communicate to another person?

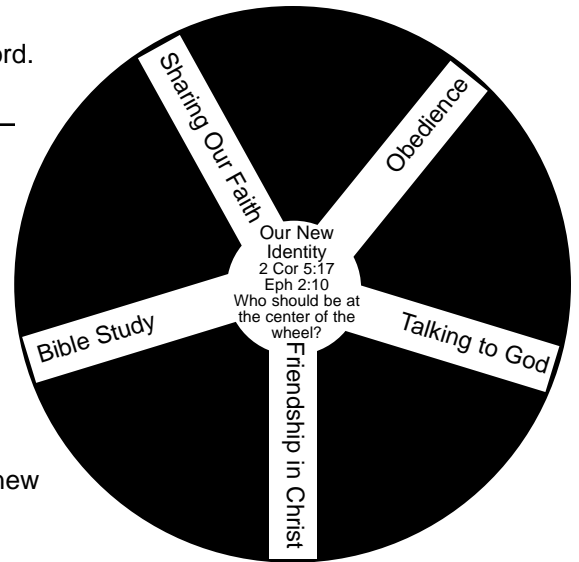
As a new creation in Christ, what new *responsibility* do we have, according to 2 Corinthians 5:20?

An ambassador is really a witness for Christ. Witnessing involves telling others how you invited Christ into your life, and how they can receive Him also.

What does Christ instruct each of us to do, according to Mark 16:15?

Can you think of two friends you would like to tell about Christ? Write their names down:

- 1)
 - 2)
-



Doing what you were really created to do, is the *most fulfilling experience in all of life*. At times you may be tempted to believe that other things will give you greater meaning, but always remember that following God's plan is the **only** way to experience true fulfillment. That is why God asks you to be obedient to Him.

Wrapping It All Up... Application

Why do you think these five activities will help you grow in your relationship with Christ?

You are beginning the most exciting adventure of your life. For you to keep growing in your new relationship with God, it will be important to get involved in a discipleship group or a Bible study with other Christians.

Do you have a discipleship group in which you can be involved?

Who is the leader and when will you meet?

If you are not already a member of a church, find one in your area which honors Christ and teaches the Bible. You will be able to meet others who are growing in Christ. Together, you can grow, pray and reach out to those who don't know Christ.

What is the name of the church you want to get plugged into?

WRITE ALL YOUR NOTES FROM THIS SHEET ONTO THE STUDENTS GUIDE SO YOU DO NOT READ OFF THIS SHEET DURING THE BIBLE STUDY.

supplies: copies of lesson, teachers guide, pencils, bibles, music/speakers, snacks, cups, pizza, ice, game (pictionary cards, mad gab), list of names of kids in group, conference brochures, camera

pass around attendance sheet to know who is there.

Intro Discuss: