

Lesson 3 – Brand New (Salvation & Baptism)

Introduction

Grace does not leave us where we are, it transforms us. When we receive God’s gift of salvation, we are not just forgiven; we are made *brand new*. The old life of sin and separation is replaced by a new identity in Christ. Baptism then becomes the outward declaration of this inward reality: that we have died with Christ and are raised to walk in newness of life. Discipleship begins here, from a foundation of new creation life.

Teaching Session

1. A New Creation Reality

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV)

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

- In Christ, we are not improved versions of ourselves, we are *new*.
 - Old guilt, shame, and sin no longer define us.
 - New identity, new purpose, and new destiny now belong to us.
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2. Salvation Through Faith and Confession

Romans 10:9–10 (NIV)

If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.

- Salvation is both internal (belief) and external (confession).
 - Declaring Jesus as Lord is surrendering to His kingship.
 - Faith in the resurrection affirms His victory over sin and death.
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3. Crucified With Christ

Galatians 2:20 (NIV)

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

- Salvation means death to the old self and life in Christ.
 - Christian life is no longer self-centered but Christ-centered.
 - Identity is rooted in His love and His sacrifice.
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4. The Role of Baptism

Romans 6:3–4 (NIV)

Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

- Baptism symbolizes death, burial, and resurrection.
 - Going under water = dying with Christ.
 - Rising up = new life empowered by the Spirit.
 - Baptism is not salvation itself, but the declaration and seal of it.
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5. Assurance of New Life

John 5:24 (NIV)

"Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life."

- Eternal life is present reality, not just future promise.
 - Salvation brings assurance of no condemnation.
 - In Christ, we have crossed over, no going back.
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Study & Discussion Questions

1. What does it practically mean to live as a "new creation" in Christ?
 2. How do belief and confession work together in Romans 10:9–10?
 3. What does Galatians 2:20 teach us about surrendering self-will to Christ's life in us?
 4. How does baptism deepen our understanding of salvation?
 5. In what ways can you daily walk in the assurance that you have already "crossed over from death to life"?
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Application & Reflection

- **Memory Verse:** *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!”* (2 Corinthians 5:17, NIV)
- **Personal Reflection:** Write down specific “old things” in your life that no longer define you since coming to Christ. Then list the “new things” He has given you in identity, purpose, and destiny.
- **Group Activity:** Share baptism testimonies (if already baptized) or discuss what baptism means personally. If in a group where some have not yet been baptized, encourage them to consider it as a next step of faith.