

Brand New – 3

Romans 6:4 (NLT)

⁴ For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may **live new lives**.

God's Grace is so much more than forgiveness. That's just the beginning. God has given us all the power we need to live a "Brand New" Life in this world. And eternal life beyond that.

Colossians 3:3 (NLT)

³ For you died to this life, and your **real life** is hidden with Christ in God.

Luke 9:23 (NLT)

²³ Then he said to the crowd, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must turn from your selfish ways, take up your cross daily, and follow me.

In **Romans 10:9** it states that we should confess Jesus as Lord
Lord – *kurios* – *master, owner, supreme in authority*

Because most people only accept Jesus as Savior they still possess a spiritual nature that is corrupt and evil

Our lives must be submitted to and built upon His Lordship if we are going to see a transformation in our lives

When we receive him as Lord, His nature is on the inside and now we can choose who to serve – **Romans 6**

What is my ultimate goal in life?

Philippians 3:14 (NLT)

¹⁴ I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.

Moses

Hebrews 11:24–26 (NLT)

²⁴ It was by faith that Moses, when he grew up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter. ²⁵ He chose to share the oppression of God's people instead of enjoying the fleeting pleasures of sin. ²⁶ He thought it was better to suffer for the sake of Christ than to own the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking ahead to his great reward.

- What was the great reward?
- Could it be the Promised Land
- It would have had nothing he didn't already possess
- What was the reward Moses sought?
- He probably didn't know the day he left
- He just knew there was something more
- A longing this world couldn't meet

After forty years of waiting to head to the promised land God is giving instruction for that entry

No Slide: Exodus 33:3 (NLT)

³ Go up to this land that flows with milk and honey. But I will not travel among you."

Look at Moses's response

Exodus 33:15 (NLT)

¹⁵ Then Moses said, "If you don't personally go with us, don't make us leave this place.

- Remember where "this place" was
- He was saying if I have to choose between your presence and your blessing – I'll take your presence
- A place of lack and hardship with God's presence is better than His blessings without His presence
- Moses was the one who left luxury
- The people left bondage yet their response is quite different

No Slide: Numbers 14:3 (NLT)

³ "Wouldn't it be better for us to return to Egypt?"

The reason their response is so different is because Moses heard the word of the Lord firsthand the people only heard it from Moses

Exodus 20:19 (NLT)

¹⁹ And they said to Moses, "You speak to us, and we will listen. But don't let God speak directly to us, or we will die!"

- The people couldn't handle God's presence because they still had too much of Egypt in their hearts
- They **still loved their own interests** over His
- Knowing Him intimately wasn't a priority

Exodus 33:11 (NLT)

¹¹ Inside the Tent of Meeting, the LORD would speak to Moses face to face, as one speaks to a friend. Afterward Moses would return to the camp, but the young man who assisted him, Joshua son of Nun, would remain behind in the Tent of Meeting.

- God's desire is to speak to us as friends

John 15:15 (NLT)

¹⁵ I no longer call you slaves, because a master doesn't confide in his slaves. Now you are my friends, since I have told you everything the Father told me.

- No longer slaves
- His desire is for us to confide in us
- To share His concealed things with us – **Proverbs 25:2**

What does a friend look like? What are the key elements?

- Time together relating and understanding each other
- Sharing common interests
- Love, trust, respect, humor and mutual attraction
- Encouraging one another to reach our potential
- Protect each other and help in difficult situations

Romans 5:10 (NLT)

¹⁰ For since **our friendship with God was restored** by the death of his Son while we were still his enemies, we will certainly be saved through the life of his Son.

Proverbs 27:9 (The Message)

⁹ Just as lotions and fragrance give sensual delight, a sweet friendship refreshes the soul.

- We were not created to fly solo
- We are made in God's image and both parties desire friendship
- We will seek out friendship naturally
- There is a danger in seeking the wrong friendship

The bible speaks unfavorably of a particular friendship

James 4:4 (NLT)

⁴ You adulterers! Don't you realize that friendship with the world makes you an enemy of God? I say it again: If you want to be a friend of the world, you make yourself an enemy of God.

Whatever your heart clings to and confides in, that really is your god – Martin Luther

James 4:4 *Philia: "to be a friend" it applies to a broad spectrum of friendship*

I believe that James uses this word because all friendships vary in their levels of intimacy – this word applies to every level

Committing adultery against God is very little different than the typical scenario of a married man's unfaithfulness in having an affair:

There is courting involved

- First the parties meet
- They start to get acquainted and spend more time talking, etc.
- There is a spark initiated
- Most often fostered by lack of intimacy with spouse
- The initial interactions seem harmless
- With each contact the desire increases
- They exchange cell numbers
- They start texting, chatting – their conversation deepens
- They have passed the safe level of interaction
- They decide to have coffee or a meal together
- They are now constantly on each other's minds
- The husband now longs for her, not his wife
- In the company of his wife he's no longer present
- His thoughts and imagination are with his mistress
- It's only a matter of time and they're in bed together

At which step did the adultery start?

When they exchanged #'s, met alone, first touched, kissed?

Or when they undressed and had sex together?

The words of Jesus give us the answer

Matthew 5:28 (The Message)

But don't think you've preserved your virtue simply by staying out of bed. Your *heart* can be corrupted by lust even quicker than your *body*. Those leering looks you think nobody notices—they also corrupt.

- It happened when the man's affections swung toward the woman
- The heart is where we live our actions simply follow
- The world lures us away from our first love
- The world stirs our interest with humor, pleasure, comfort, excitement, intrigue, success or anything that's appealing
- It's often due to our lack of fulfillment in our relationship with God
- We have lost the thrill – or maybe never experienced it
- Our need for companionship draws us elsewhere

Colossians 3:1–2 (NLT)

Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand. ² Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth.

- Seek and set!
- Our mind is set upon what we seek

Romans 8:5–7 (NLT)

⁵ Those who are dominated by the sinful nature think about sinful things, but those who are controlled by the Holy Spirit think about things that please the Spirit. ⁶ So letting your sinful nature control your mind leads to death. But letting the Spirit control your mind leads to life and peace. ⁷ For the sinful nature is always **hostile** to God. It never did obey God's laws, and it never will.

- Hostile – same word translated enemy in James 4:4
- Why would I want the one I love hostile, angry and disappointed with me?

Getting God upset is a bad idea...

- Look at Jonah, Samson, Eli and his sons, Saul, Balaam, Joab, Alexander the coppersmith
- In Revelation 2, 3 the compromised church is threaten with having their lampstand removed – their light
- Another church was forewarned that God would “Fight Against” them
- Another threatened with “a sickbed” and “great tribulation”
- Another he would come upon as a thief
- Another He would vomit out of His mouth
- You don't want to face Gods Hostility

Revelation 3:19 (NLT)

¹⁹ I correct and discipline everyone I love. So be diligent and turn from your indifference.

We need to Set our minds back to where we first started

Revelation 2:4 (NLT)

⁴ “But I have this complaint against you. You don’t love me or each other as you did at first!

- We were once overwhelmed with Jesus’s love
- We would think about Him when we woke up, at breakfast, in the car, on the job, during lunch, after work, when alone or lying awake in bed
- We longed for fellowship with His Spirit
- We anticipate attending our next Church service
 - experiencing His presence, worshipping Him, hearing His word
- Reaching out to others and sharing Jesus
- Talk to fellow believers about the ways of God

Now:

- We might be physically there but our minds are not present
- Our thoughts easily drift towards other things of interest
- Is our mind really drifting or have we “set our minds” on something else?

1 John 5:21 (NLT)

²¹ Dear children, keep away from anything that might take God’s place in your hearts.

1 Corinthians 10:21–24 (The Message)

And you can't have it both ways, banqueting with the Master one day and slumming with demons the next. Besides, the Master won't put up with it. He wants *us*—all or nothing. Do you think you can get off with anything less?

^{23–24} Looking at it one way, you could say, “Anything goes. Because of God's immense generosity and grace, we don't have to dissect and scrutinize every action to see if it will pass muster.” But the point is not to just get by. We want to live well, but our foremost efforts should be to help *others* live well.

Repent and return to Him

James 4:8–9 (NLT)

⁸ Come close to God, and God will come close to you. Wash your hands, you sinners; purify your hearts, for your loyalty is divided between God and the world. ⁹ Let there be tears for what you have done. Let there be sorrow and deep grief. Let there be sadness instead of laughter, and gloom instead of joy.

2 Corinthians 7:10 (NLT)

¹⁰ For the kind of sorrow God wants us to experience leads us away from sin and results in salvation. There's no regret for that kind of sorrow. But worldly sorrow, which lacks repentance, results in spiritual death.

- Psalm 51:4 Against you, and you alone have I sinned