

## Got Jesus?

Christ Community Church

July 7, 2013

New car: read the manual to find out what all it can do.

Learned some neat new features, but kept trying to access them using old methods – buttons, menus.

Voice controlled capability (blue tooth audio) – **new** way to do **new** things.

II Corinthians 5:14-17 “For Christ’s love compels us, since we have reached this conclusion: If One died for all, then all died. And He died for all so that those who live should **no longer live for themselves**, but for the One who died for them and was raised. From now on, then, we do not know anyone in a purely human way. Even if we have known Christ in a purely human way, yet now we no longer know Him in this way. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a **new creation**; old things have passed away, and look, **new things have come.**”

New = totally unprecedented, not just a marketing ploy

New birth is not an invitation/opportunity to try again harder to do better. It is an invitation into a **whole new way of doing life!**

Let’s read the manual so we don’t miss the **new** features that make this **new** life so much better than the old!

Some of the **New Things** (not an exhaustive inventory, but a start):

### 1. New heart

- a. Jeremiah 24:7 “And I’ll give them a heart to know me, God. They’ll be my people and I’ll be their God, for they’ll have returned to me with all their hearts.”
- b. Ezekiel 36:26 “I’ll give you a new heart, put a new spirit in you. I’ll remove the stone heart from your body and replace it with a heart that’s God-willed, not self-willed. I’ll put my Spirit in you and make it possible for you to do what I tell you and live by my commands.”
- c. I Corinthians 13 – “Love is...” a description of the nature of the new heart

This means: loving and knowing God is not hard or strange, it is the most natural way of living because my heart was designed specifically for that purpose

### 2. New Father

- a. Spirit of adoption: Romans 8:15 “you received the Spirit of adoption, by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father!””
- b. New spiritual DNA: I John 3:9 “Everyone who has been born of God does not sin, because His seed remains in him...”
  - i. Seed = Gr. *Sperma*
  - ii. Carries the DNA of the father, greater than adoption in which the adopted child does **not** carry the DNA of the father
- c. No longer orphans: John 14:18 “I (Jesus) will not leave you orphaned.”
- d. Gained an eternal inheritance
  - i. I Peter 1:3-4 “Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. According to His great mercy, He has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead and into an **inheritance** that is imperishable, uncorrupted, and unfading, kept in heaven for you.”

- ii. Romans 8:16-17 "The Spirit Himself testifies together with our spirit that we are God's children, and if children, also **heirs** – heirs of God and coheirs with Christ – seeing that we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him."

This means: I don't need to prove anything to anyone. I'm not searching for identity. I'm growing up to be just like my Dad! My future is secure!

### 3. New family

- a. Ephesians 1:4-5 "Long before he laid down earth's foundations, he had us in mind, had settled on us as the focus of his love, to be made whole and holy by his love. Long, long ago he decided to adopt us into his family through Jesus Christ. (What pleasure he took in planning this!)"
- b. Hebrews 2:11 "Since the One who saves and those who are saved have a common origin, Jesus doesn't hesitate to treat them as family..."

This means: I am not alone. I'm surrounded by those who love and support me.

### 4. New address (Movin' On Up – the Jeffersons) – living life from a new position, seeing life from a new perspective

- a. Translated from one kingdom to another: Colossians 1:13 "He has rescued us from the domain of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of the Son He loves..."
  - i. Laying down methods and manners of the former kingdom
  - ii. Learning protocol of the new kingdom
- b. Seated in heavenly places in Christ: Ephesians 2:6-7 "Then he picked us up and set us down in highest heaven in company with Jesus, our Messiah. Now God **has us where he wants us**, with all the time in this world and the next to shower grace and kindness upon us in Christ Jesus."

This means: I'm not striving for prominence or position. I live from a place of influence. I am not a victim.

### 5. New living hope

- a. Colossians 1:27 God wanted to make known to those among the Gentiles the glorious wealth of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the **hope of glory**.
- b. II Corinthians 3:12,17-18 Therefore having such a hope, we use great boldness-- Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. We all, with unveiled faces, are **reflecting the glory of the Lord** and are **being transformed** into the same image from glory to glory; this is from the Lord who is the Spirit.
- c. Hebrews 6:19 We have this *hope*--like a sure and firm anchor of the soul--that enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain.
- d. I John 3:3 And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself just as He is pure.

This means: my life is filled with endless possibilities. I live with a joyous expectancy that every day I am growing into all that God calls me to be.

### 6. New calling/purpose

- a. Kings and priests
  - i. Revelation 5:10 "Then you made them a Kingdom, Priests for our God, Priest-kings to rule over the earth."
  - ii. I Peter 2:9-10 "But you are the ones chosen by God, chosen for the high calling of priestly work, chosen to be a holy people, God's

instruments to do his work and speak out for him, to tell others of the night-and-day difference he made for you – from nothing to something, from rejected to accepted.”

b. Ministers of Reconciliation

- i. II Corinthians 5:18-19 “Now everything is from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that is, in Christ, God was reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed the message of reconciliation to us.”
- ii. Colossians 1:16-20 “For everything, absolutely everything, above and below, visible and invisible, rank after rank after rank of angels-- everything got started in him and finds its purpose in him. He was there before any of it came into existence and holds it all together right up to this moment. And when it comes to the church, he organizes and holds it together, like a head does a body. He was supreme in the beginning and--leading the resurrection parade--he is supreme in the end. From beginning to end he's there, towering far above everything, everyone. So spacious is he, so roomy, that everything of God finds its proper place in him without crowding. Not only that, but all the broken and dislocated pieces of the universe--people and things, animals and atoms--get properly fixed and fit together in vibrant harmonies, all because of his death, his blood that poured down from the Cross.”

This means: my life has eternal value and significance. My life matters. I am a key player in God’s plan to fill all of creation with the presence of Christ, and to bring everything back into perfect order in Him. God is working through me to change the world.

## 7. New Future: Rule and reign with Christ

- a. I Peter 1:3-5 What a God we have! And how fortunate we are to have him, this Father of our Master Jesus! Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we’ve been given a brand-new life and have everything to live for, including a future in heaven--and the future starts now! God is keeping careful watch over us and the future. The Day is coming when you’ll have it all--life healed and whole.
- b. Romans 5:17 Since by the one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive the overflow of grace and the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.
- c. I Corinthians 6:2,3 The day is coming when the world is going to stand before a jury made up of Christians. If someday you are going to rule on the world's fate, wouldn't it be a good idea to practice on some of these smaller cases? Why, we're even going to judge angels! So why not these everyday affairs?
- d. Revelation 22:5 Night will no longer exist, and people will not need lamplight or sunlight, because the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign forever and ever.

This means: I have a future that is exciting and purpose-filled that stretches on throughout eternity. Right now I am being trained to reign with Christ.

Faith response: share together in Communion as a declaration of the reality of living life a whole new way.

Prayer for salvation –

The elements of communion – these go into my system