

The New Reality

A New Us

A Quick Review:

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!
(Paul - 2 Corinthians 5:17)

In Jesus, We Are ...

_____ In A New _____.

My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one—I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. (Jesus – John 17:20-23)

Our ties to one another cannot be isolated from our shared relationship to him, nor our relationship to him from our ties to one another. Our relations to others cannot be right unless we see those others in their relation to God ... "If someone says, 'I love God,' and hates his brother, he is a liar," John unapologetically said, "for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen" (1 John 4:20). We only live as we should when we are in a right relation to God and to other human beings—thus the two greatest commandments... (Dallas Willard, *Renovation of the Heart*)

In Jesus, We Are ...

A _____ Marked By _____.

Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.

(Jesus – Matthew 5:7)

Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom, because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

(James – James 2:12-13)

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

(Paul - Colossians 3:12-14)

In Jesus, We Are ...

_____ Of A New _____.

The end of all things is near. Therefore be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray. Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

(Peter - 1 Peter 4:7-11)

We exist to stand up with God and count for something in his world.

(Dallas Willard, *Hearing God*)