

Jesus Makes All Things New: 5 Markers of a Growing Christian Pastor Scott Montagne January 17, 2021

“...if anyone be in Christ, that person is a new creation: old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.” 2 Corinthians 5:17

The Greek in this scripture signifies a *continuing action*!

i.e., “old things have passed away and all things are *becoming new*.” Or, “the old has gone and the new has begun.”

This morning’s Big Idea:

Having an abiding relationship with Christ will continue to change us.

5 Markers of a Growing Christian

1. **Being in Christ changes your Affections.**

1 John 2:15-17 ¹⁵ *Do not love this world* nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you. ¹⁶ For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions. These are not from the Father but are from this world.

Ask Yourself: What are those things I truly desire? Who has my heart?

2. **Being in Christ changes your Attitudes.**

Philippians 2:2-6 ² Make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one mind and purpose. ³ Don’t be selfish; don’t try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Don’t look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too. ⁵ **Have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had.**

⁶ Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. ⁷ Rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant.

Ask yourself: How is my attitude... with those I greatly disagree with? My work? My family? My outlook on life?

3. **Being in Christ changes your Appetites.**

Galatians 5:13-17 ¹³You have been called to live in freedom...but don't use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love. ¹⁴ For the whole law can be summed up in this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁵ But if you are always biting and devouring one another, watch out! Beware of destroying one another. ¹⁶ So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves. **The Spirit gives us desires that are good**...the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other.

Ask Yourself: Am I regularly surrendering my carnal desires to the Lord?

4. **Being in Christ changes your Actions.**

James 2:14-17 ¹⁴ What good is it, if you say you have faith but don't show it by your actions? Can that kind of faith save anyone? ¹⁵ Suppose you see a brother or sister who has no food or clothing, ¹⁶ and you say, "Have a good day; stay warm and eat well"—but then you don't give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do? ¹⁷ So you see, faith by itself isn't enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless. **Real faith will produce good deeds.**

Ask yourself: Have I been actively living out my faith in tangible ways?

5. **Being in Christ changes your Assurances.**

1 John 5:12-13 **Whoever has the Son has Life;** he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

John 1:12 To all who believe Him and accept Him, He gave the right to become children of God.

Romans 8:16 The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God.

Jude 1:24 Now to Him [Lord Jesus Christ] who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy.

Ask Yourself: Am I at Peace? Do I really trust Christ with my Past, Present and Future?