

## Greater Works Christian Church

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**Question:** Who are you? Most of us can answer this question by giving our name. But who are you really- the real you?

I want you to think about this question: Who are you really- the real you?

To know your true identity, you must know God and what He has said about you.

What has God said about you- the real you?

### Identity, Part 5 “You are Stronger than you Think”

**Introduction:** For several weeks now we have been looking at the importance of knowing and living in our True Identity. We have found that satan does not want us to know our Identity. He will do everything he can to cause us to question who we are and what we are to be. If he is successful at getting us to question what God has said about us (our identity) we won't fulfill the call of God on our life because we will never fully know who we are.

### Renewing the Spirit of Your Mind

#### **Ephesians 4:20-24**

20 But you have not so learned Christ,

21 if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus:

22 that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts,

23 and **be renewed in the spirit of your mind,**

24 and that you **put on the new man which was created according to God**, in true righteousness and holiness.

**Note:** The issues we face in life, God has more than compensated for because of the cross. With the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus, we have been saved, and given a new nature. This new nature is far more than a mere mindset or attitude, but it is a full restoration back to God, and His original design for us.

***The New Nature (New Man) is your true Identity.***

#### **v.22) The Old Man**

**Old (3820) *palaios***

1) old, ancient

2) no longer new, worn by use, the worse for wear, old

**Very Important:** We are to “Put Off” that which is old and worn out. This points to constant renewal, because everything eventually wears out. In Christ we are to be renewed daily- a constant renewing of our heart, mind, soul and spirit.

**Conduct (391) *anastrophe***

1) manner of life, conduct, behaviour, deportment

It is interesting to note that many in the body of Christ teach that our behavior is not that important. We are told that God loves us no matter what so we don't have to be concerned about our behavior, because God isn't concerned. We are often taught that if our hearts are right it doesn't matter what we do.

This is NOT what the Bible teaches. The Bible teaches that we can gauge the condition of our hearts by our actions and behavior. This verse clearly shows this. We are to “Put Off” the “Old Man” because of its “Conduct (behavior).”

**Very Important:** By the wording used this is not necessarily pointing out sinful behavior only, but behavior and conduct that is merely “worn out.” This of course could be sin, but it could also mean we need to keep up with God, and what He is doing today.

**Question:** The “New Man” is the real you. What does the New Man look like? Who is this person? Who are you?

Find what God's word says about you and personalize it.

**Corrupt (5351) *phtheiro***

1) to corrupt, to destroy

1a) in the opinion of the Jews, the temple was corrupted or “destroyed” when anyone defiled or in the slightest degree damaged anything in it, or if its guardians neglected their duties

1b) to lead away a Christian church from that state of knowledge and holiness in which it ought to abide

1c) to be destroyed, to perish

1d) in an ethical sense, to corrupt, deprave

**Deceitful (539) *apate***

Deceit; deceitful

**Lusts (1039) *epithumia***

1) desire, craving, longing, desire for what is forbidden, lust

The “Old Man” grows corrupt because of “Deceitful Lusts.” We are deceived into doing things

we wouldn't ordinarily do. When we find ourselves doing what we know is "off limits" we can clearly see that we need to put off the "Old Man" for a "New Man."

**Philippians 2:12-13**

12 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, **work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;**

13 for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for *His* good pleasure.

Part of "working out of our salvation" is putting on the new man, and the "renewing of the spirit of our mind". It is up to us to put the things that God has given us, into action.

**v.23) "be renewed in the spirit of your mind"**

**Renewed**- made new

**Spirit**- pneuma (spirit)

**Mind**- Nooce (understanding, perceiving, judging, determining- recognizing goodness and hating evil)

When we realize that we need to make a change this is where the change begins. The place where the spirit and soul (mind) come together. The change effects our mind in such a way that we understand, perceive, judge and determine in a manner that causes us to "recognize goodness and hate evil.

**Questions:** What are some of the things we can do to be Renewed in the Spirit of our Minds? Why are these things important?

**Hebrews 1:9** (quoting Ps 45:7)

YOU HAVE LOVED RIGHTEOUSNESS AND HATED LAWLESSNESS; THEREFORE GOD, YOUR GOD, HAS ANOINTED YOU WITH THE OIL OF GLADNESS MORE THAN YOUR COMPANIONS."

This was said of Jesus. Jesus was anointed more than those around Him because He had the perfect balance of the Love for Righteousness and the Hatred for Lawlessness. As we are renewed in the spirit of our mind we come into a balance such as this.

v.24) and that you **put on the new man which was created according to God**, in true righteousness and holiness.

When we "Put Off the Old Man" we are to replace it with the "New Man." We are never to leave a void (which is impossible). We will always be full of something. If we are not full of God and His righteousness the devil will fill us with unrighteousness through deceit.

**Put On (1746) *enduo***

1) to sink into (clothing), put on, clothe one's self

We are to literally “sink into” this New Man. Have you ever sat on a big comfy chair, the type you literally sink into? Imagine reclining into the New Man you were created to be. You are to sink into the new man similar to sinking into that big comfy chair. It will engulf you if you put it on.

**New= *kainos***

**Man= *anthropos***

**New (2537) *kainos***

1) new

1a) as respects form

1a1) recently made, fresh, recent, unused, unworn

1b) as respects substance

1b1) of a new kind, unprecedented, novel, uncommon, unheard of

The “New Man” is truly brand new- created by God. This is not a one-time event, but a constant renewal. We are to constantly put off that which is old and put on (sink into) what is new.

**Created (2936) *ktizo***

1) to make habitable, to people, a place, region, island

1a) to found a city, colony, state

2) to create

2a) of God creating the worlds

2b) to form, shape, i.e. to completely change or transform

This word shows that God creates a place for us to dwell in. The New Man is this New Place that we are to dwell in. It is much more than merely changing how we think, but changing everything about us and our surroundings.

The New Man is Created in a Manner that looks like God, for God is the Model for the New Man. In other-words, we have not only been given access to God and His character and nature, but we have been made to look like Him.

**Question:** We are told to “put on the new man”. This sounds as easy as getting dressed in the morning. What can we do to put on the new man? How can we be assured we are being clothed in the new man?

***God shares His Character and Attributes with us so we become as He is.***

*Very Important:* We understand that “spirit” is also translated wind or breath, but it also means “life force”. This passage could be translated, ***“be renewed in the life force of your mind”***.

**A life force (spirit) is that which energizes the life of a thing (in this case, the mind). The force that energizes the mind must be renewed. The word “spirit” was used here on purpose. Man has the ability to have his mind driven by carnal (natural) things, or by spiritual (Godly) things. We can have our minds energized by the world around us, or by God. To have our minds driven (energized) by God, we must renew the spirit of our mind.**

Our minds must become spiritual, so that we can comprehend spiritual things, such as ***“the life of God”***.

**Conclusion:** As we Put Off the Old Man, and Put On the New Man we look more and more like Christ.

**John 10:30**

I and My Father are one.

Jesus could say this because He lived constantly as a New Man.

**Question:** Jesus said: I and My Father are One. Is it possible for you and me to say the same thing? If yes, why? If no, why?