

# The Old Hickory

## Bulletin

### Old Hickory Church of Christ

841 Old Hickory Blvd.

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## NEW CREATURES IN CHRIST!

The Apostle Paul wrote, in 2 Corinthians 5:17, “Therefore if anyone is in Christ, *he is* a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.” Why is the one who is in Christ called “a new creature?” How does the change from the “old” to the “new” occur? What are some results of this change?

**Why a new creature?** The mind is renewed. Paul admonished the Ephesian Christians “So this I say, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind,” (Eph. 4:17). As Christians, they were carefully instructed “that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new self, which in *the likeness of God* has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.” (Eph. 4:22-24). One becomes a new creature because of changes that have been made on the inside, in the heart of man. He is a new creature because he does not live as he once did, but now walks “in newness of life” (Rom. 6:4).

**Old to new: how?** There is no miraculous process involved here, but rather a process of hearing Christ, being taught in Him, and accordingly learning Him. Paul affirms, “But you did not learn Christ in this way, if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus,” (Eph. 4:20-21). Thus, the inner man, the mind is changed and made different, the old is cast off and the new is put on. Paul described it to the Roman Christians this way: “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind,” (Rom. 12:2a). How a person goes from old to new is by hearing, by learning the message of Christ, thus being “taught of God,” he “comes to” Christ (John 6:45). This gospel message “is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes” (Rom. 1:16). The powerful gospel transforms us in the inside, and thus God is able to bring about the changes He desires in us.

**The results:** The creature is “new” because his understanding has been changed by what he has learned from God, and it has affected what he is on the inside. He thinks differently as a Christian than before his conversion. Now there are new desires and new standards. There is a new Master of his life (Rom. 6:16-18). Growing out of the renewed mind, there is new conduct, new actions, new fruits that testify to the genuineness of the inner change (John 15:8). The new creatures are “imitators of God” (Eph. 5:1). The new creatures “walk in love” (Eph. 5:2). The new creatures give thanks (Eph. 5:4), and they “walk as children of Light.” (Eph. 5:8). They do not live as the old man any longer, in “immorality...impurity...greed...filthiness...silly talk...course jesting” or covetousness because “the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience;” these old-man things are “unfruitful deeds of darkness” (Eph. 5:3-6, 11).

**Are you an old man or a new man?** Friend, you need to be a new

creature! May we help you “put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him,” (Col. 3:10)?

- GFS

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## **DYING TO SELF**

When you are forgotten, or neglected, or purposely set at naught, and you don't sting and hurt with the insult or the oversight, but your heart is happy, being counted worthy to suffer for Christ, that is dying to self.

When your good is evil spoken of, when your wishes are crossed, your advice disregarded, your opinions ridiculed, and you refuse to let anger rise in your heart, or even defend yourself, but take it in all in patient, loving silence, that is dying to self.

When you lovingly and patiently bear any disorder, any irregularity, any unpunctuality, or any annoyance; when you stand face-to-face with waste, folly, extravagance, spiritual insensibility -- and endure it as Jesus endured, that is dying to self.

When you are content with any food, any offering, any climate, any society, any raiment, any interruption by the will of God, that is dying to self.

When you never care to refer to yourself in conversation, or to record your own good works, or itch after commendations, when you can truly love to be unknown, that is dying to self.

When you can see your brother prosper and have his needs met and can honestly rejoice with him in spirit and feel no envy, nor question God, while your own needs are far greater and in desperate circumstances, that is dying to self.

When you can receive correction and reproof from one of less stature than yourself and can humbly submit inwardly as well as outwardly, finding no rebellion or resentment rising up within your heart, that is dying to self.

"Then Jesus said to His disciples, 'If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever

desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it." (Matthew 16:24-25).

- author unknown

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Lost, yesterday, somewhere between sunrise and sunset,  
two golden hours, each set with sixty diamond minutes.  
No reward offered, for they are gone forever. .

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- > A family altar can alter a family.
  - > A lot of kneeling will keep you in good standing.
  - > Don't put a question mark where God put a period.
  - > God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the called.
  - > *"The Bible will always be full of things you cannot understand, as long as you will not live according to those you can understand."* — Billy Sunday
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**SUNDAY'S LESSONS:** Sunday morning: *"Why Choose A Blasphemer?"* (text: 1 Tim. 1:12-17); Sunday evening: Jesus Christ: A Closer Look – *Find Assurance in Renouncing the Perilous!* (Mark 10:23-31).