

# ***Ethics and the Christian Life (4)***

## Redemption - The Image of God Restored

### Introduction

- A. When we consider the meaning of our sinful rejection of God, we cannot fathom the love that would make our redemption possible. God has come to rescue us.
- B. It is vitally important, in all of our discussion of redemption, to remember that we have been re-created according to the former pattern of the image of God. This also means that we have been re-established in the eternal plan to bring glory to God by giving Jesus Christ preeminence in all things. The recognition of this is the basis of ethical responsibility and spiritual commitment.

### **I. The Biblical Statement:**

- A. The Scripture: II Corinthians 5:18-21; Ephesians 2:1-11.
- B. Jesus Christ came into the world as our Representative. He came to fulfill the law that we did not keep (Rom. 5:19; 8:3,4), and to pay the penalty which we could not pay (Gal. 3:13; 4:4,5). He has set us free from the bondage of sin, death and Satan and has given us eternal life in the relationship of adoption.

### **II. The Biblical Explanation:**

#### A. The character of redemption.

- 1. It is personal: Jesus Christ, the Son of God, died to redeem persons. John 10:11,14,28,29; Acts 20:28; Galatians 2:20
- 2. It is Historical: Jesus Christ, died and rose again, as our Representative, in historical transactions. Acts 1:22; 2:32; 3:15; 5:30-32; I Cor. 15:1-8
- 3. It is once-for-all: Jesus Christ in His Crucifixion and Resurrection, redeemed His people in a single representative transaction. Hebrews 7:27; 9:26-28; 10:10-14

#### B. The product of redemption.

- 1. The reality of our death and resurrection in Jesus Christ.

- a. We (the old "I") died in the Crucifixion. Rom, 6:3; Gal. 2:20; Col. 3:3
- b. The "old man" (old nature) was crucified. Romans 6:6
- c. We (the new "I") were raised in the Resurrection. Romans 6:4; Gal. 2:20
- d. We were given a "new man" (new nature) in the Resurrection. Eph. 4:25

- 2. The believer has been brought into a twofold relationship with God.

	Crucifixion	Resurrection	Ascension	Pentecost
Salvation	Justification	Eternal Life	Deliverance from Satan	New Birth & Holy Spirit Baptism
Sanctification	Daily Cleansing	Daily Enablement	Daily Freedom	Daily Anointing
Exhortation	Ephesians 4:22	Ephesians 4:24	Ephesians 4:27	Ephesians 5:18

### III. The Biblical Meaning:

#### A. Our present condition in Jesus Christ.

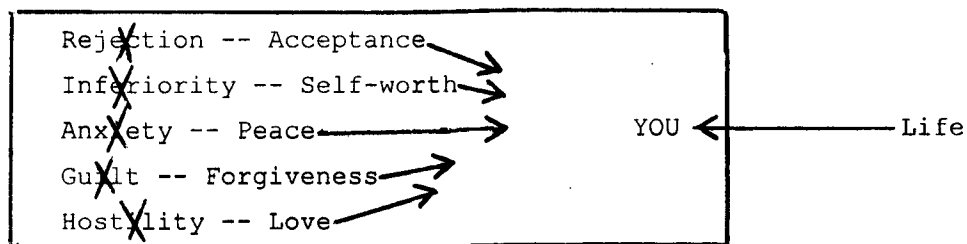
1. All that we were in the Fall was dealt within the Crucifixion. We died in the death of Jesus Christ. Romans 6:1-6, Galatians 2:20
2. All that we were in Adam before the Fall, and more, has been legally re-established in our lives. We have been raised to newness of life in the Resurrection. Romans 6:4; Ephesians 2:5,6; Phil. 3:10; Col. 3:1-14

#### B. Our possible experience in Jesus Christ..

1. Unlimited potentiality for ~~sinfulness~~ . . . for goodness.
2. Unlimited potentiality for ~~inability~~ . . . for creativity.
3. Unlimited potentiality for ~~unfulfillment~~ . . . for fulfillment.
4. Unlimited potentiality for ~~alienation~~ . . . for fellowship.

### IV. The Biblical Application:

#### A. We must learn to interpret ourselves and life on the basis of the truth.



#### B. We must learn to implement God's provision by decisions of faith, love and hope.

1. There must be ethical responsibility and spiritual commitment in regard to our past. We may not allow unresolved relationships and events to hinder our spiritual progress. Restitution may have to be made. Grudges and bitterness must be dealt with. Forgiveness must be given. Habitual responses that are sinful must be dealt with. Titus 2:12; I Peter 1:14
2. There must be ethical responsibility and spiritual commitment in regard to our present. All forms of deceit, pretense, selfishness, self-centeredness, and sensuality must be confessed as sin and forsaken. Practical decisions must be made to live in fellowship with God and daily obedience. Rom. 6:16-18; Phil. 2:12,13; Col. 3:1-17; Titus 2:12; I Peter 1:13-15
3. There must be ethical responsibility and spiritual commitment in regard to our future. There must be a "spiritual pledge" in regard to daily obedience aggressive cooperation with God in daily fellowship, a dedication to the implementation of the Great Commission, and a expectancy regarding the return of Jesus Christ. Matthew 28:18-20; Titus 2:13; I Peter 1:13.

Conclusion: We may not live as though God did not exist, as though we were not His creation, as though we did not fall into sin, as though we are not redeemed.