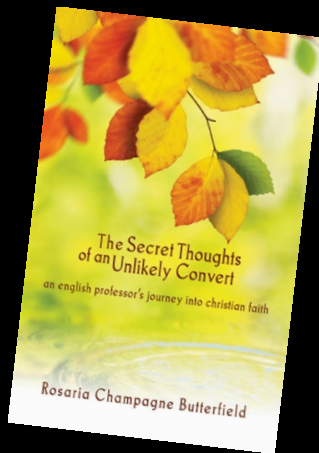


"What have we given up to follow Christ?"



"Being true to myself begs the question - Who really am I or who has God created me to be?"



Water baptism

is a ceremonial picture of our spiritual union with Christ by faith where we die to our old self and embrace a new self shaped in the image of God.



1 Corinthians 1:18

"For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God."

Our position in Christ empowers us.



Four kinds of righteousness

1. God's perfect character

This is the perfect standard of God.

2. Man's relative virtue

This is the false righteousness of the proud.

3. The imputed virtue of Christ

This is the gift of justification by faith.

4. The implemented life of the Spirit

This is the fruit of justification by faith.



How do people change?

1. Why don't people change?

Victims don't change

(When we excuse ourselves and accuse others we justify our sin and sinning.)

- ✓ The devil made me do it. **I need exorcism.**
- ✓ The sins of my parents. **I need someone else to change.**
- ✓ I have a disease. **I need medication.**
- ✓ It's my circumstances. **I need more money, better government, social justice, etc.**

Satan justifies sin and sinning.
Christ justifies sinners and changes them.

How do people change?

2. How does Paul address the issue of behavioral change in Christians?

- ✓ He assumes that Christians are fully equipped to follow Christ.
- ✓ He looks to the indwelling Spirit of Christ for power and wisdom.
- ✓ He appeals to the believer's heart, mind, and volition.
- ✓ He realizes that change will be a challenging process.

Romans 6

"¹ What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace might increase?"

This question confirms Paul's teaching of the radical freedom in Christ.

- ✓ It makes sense only if Paul's teaching of radical freedom from the condemnation of the Law is his intention.
- ✓ Note what he is not going to say. "You have misunderstood me." "You can't remove the condemnation of the Law from the Christian life."
- ✓ Note what he will say. "Your new identity does not include a self-centered life of defensive strategies, and a suppressed image of God."

"Knowing" The significance of baptism

"³ Or do you not **know** that all of us who **have been** baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? ⁴ Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, in order that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too **might walk** in newness of life. ⁵ For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall be also in the likeness of His resurrection,"

Living like Christ is our unrealized potential.

"⁶ **knowing** this, that our old self **was** crucified with Him, that our body of sin might be done away with, that we **should** no longer be slaves to sin; ⁷ for he who has died is freed from sin. ⁸ Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, ⁹ **knowing** that Christ, having been raised from the dead, is never to die again; death no longer is master over Him. ¹⁰ For the death that He died, He died to sin, once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God."

We are set free from sin by participating in the death and resurrection of Christ.

"Considering"
(This does not mean "to analyze"
but rather "to count as")

"¹¹ Even so **consider** yourselves"

**We are to make a decision
to embrace a new personal identity.**

"to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus."

**When we choose to believe that we are free
in Christ we activate Godly behavior.**

"¹² Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body that you should obey its lusts,"

**We sin because we let it rule us even
though it no longer has authority to do so.**

"Presenting" (to put on display)

"¹³ and do not go on **presenting** the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness;"

**This is a unconscious and habitual decision
that we make before we are free.**

"but **present** yourselves to God"

This is a decision to put ourselves in God's hands.

"as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God."

This is a display of life or death in us.

"¹⁴ For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law, but under grace."

This is a display of our freedom.

**Let your identity (position) in Christ
dictate your practice in life.**

1 John 4:19

"We love because he first loved us."

Ephesians 4:1

"Walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called."

Galatians 5

"²⁴ Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires,

²⁵ If we live by the Spirit
let us also walk by the Spirit."

The bridge between justification and sanctification

"knowing"	"considering"	"presenting"
I acknowledge this as true.	I apply this to myself.	I act this out.
Understanding	Believing	Yielding to God
Learning	Renewing the mind	Bearing witness

- ✓ Understanding who we are in Christ through Biblical teaching is the foundation of our new life.
- ✓ Knowing calls for an inner decision to believe and behave in a new way.
- ✓ Note what is not mentioned - rules, prayer, fear, therapy, exorcism.

3. Is this automatic and easy? NO!



Examples

Subject	"knowing"	"believing"	"showing"
forgiveness of sin	I acknowledge that Christ bore my sins on the cross.	I affirm the fact that I can be confident before God and man.	I cooperate with Christ's Spirit in showing off my freedom from shame.
bitterness	I acknowledge that God loves me and has been gracious to me.	I have every reason to be gracious to others.	I cooperate with Christ's Spirit in showing grace to those who have hurt me.
coveting	I understand that I have all that I need in Christ.	I forget about my wants and concentrate on giving to others.	I cooperate with Christ's Spirit by being content with what I have.

Philippians 3

"¹² Not that I have already obtained it, or have already become perfect, but I press on in order that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus. ¹³ Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."

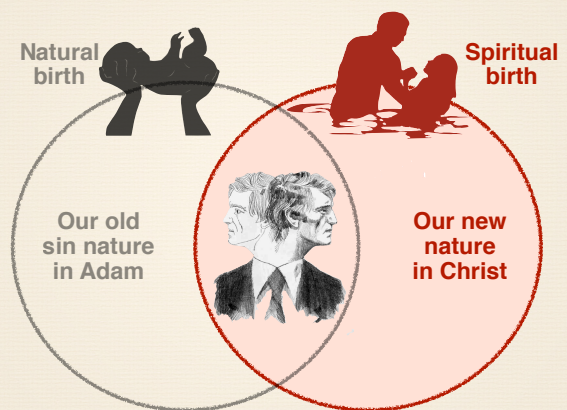
Galatians 5

"¹⁶ But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in oppositions to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please (**wish, desire**)."

The Christian is forced to be hypocritical to one of two desires in this life.

We are free in Christ to choose which one.

We are creatures with two conflicting natures.



4. Will God change our "feelings?"



"Do not misuse Christ by asking Him to baptize your feelings; instead, ask Christ to fill up your heart and soul and thereby create your feelings;"

Our faith is always showing.

We are presenting ourselves as a witness for Adam.

We are presenting ourselves as a witness for Christ.