**Walk in Newness of Life**

*Romans 6:4*

**Introduction**

1. When we become a Christian, a disciple of Christ, we begin a new life – **Romans 6:4; 2 Corinthians 5:17**
2. This language does not convey a final point being reached, but a beginning.
3. After putting Christ on in baptism, what comes next? What does this ***“walk in newness of life”*** look like? What should I be doing?
4. Think and Act with Your Spirit
5. Paul speaks about a ***“newness of life”*** which the Christian was raised to from baptism – **Romans 6:4**
	1. The ***“newness”*** is in contrast to the ***“old man”*** of sin – **(v. 6)**
	2. **(v. 1)** – shall we continue? No! That was your old way, now your life is new **(v. 2)!**
	3. **Newness** – *kainotēs* (2x) – “a life new in quality” (Reese, 252); “as depicting something not only recent and different but extraordinary” (ALGNT)
6. An extraordinary life of spiritual quality – **Romans 7:5-6** – ***“newness”*** (**v. 6**, only other time than **6:4**)
	1. Literally – ***“newness of spirit”*** (not “the”)
	2. Contrast – ***“in the flesh” (v. 5)*** – past, hence, not physical body, but state of being controlled by the fleshly (sinful) appetite.
		1. ***“bear fruit to death”*** – the way we lived in fulfilling the appetite of the flesh only accomplished death ***(6:20-21).***
	3. ***“we should serve in newness of spirit” (YLT)*** – i.e. serve God in this new life (**6:4**) of a spiritual nature.
		1. Before, our spirit was dead – **(v. 5**)
		2. Now we have spiritual life in Christ – **6:11**
	4. **Before, we acted according to fleshly desires, but now we serve God as we think and act spiritually – i.e. according to our spirit, as spiritual beings.**
7. This new life does not focus on what brings my flesh happiness or pleasure but operates with the perspective that I have a spirit, and I want to do what is best for my spirit – which is serving God – **Romans 8:9** – letting the Spirit of God direct me by the word (**cf. Ephesians 6:17**).
	1. Being spiritually minded – **Romans 8:6**
	2. This is indeed new in the sense that it is “extraordinary” – it isn’t normal by worldly standard to live and act like a spiritual being.
	3. **Therefore, this takes training and growth – before everything I do, I need to ask, “Is this good for my spirit? Is this pleasing to God?”**
	4. Our thoughts and actions must be geared toward inward renewal – **cf. 2 Corinthians 4:16; 5:7; Romans 10:17** – letting God’s word be our guide.
	5. With His word, God empowers us to think and act spiritually – **Psalm 19:7-11** – His word shapes our thinking and enlightens us of the spiritual.
		1. Not just knowing facts, or history, etc.
		2. Renewing, changing how we think, and therefore how we act!
8. Embrace the Joy of Discipleship
9. The Ethiopian eunuch’s response to becoming a Christian – **Acts 8:39** – joy knowing his sins were washed away, and that he had a hope of heaven, but also joy that he belonged to Christ the King who he’d now serve in His kingdom (**Acts 8:12** – things concerning the kingdom).
10. The direction of God in His word is something to delight in – **Psalm 19:10**
	1. **As we think in relation to our spirits, and spiritual value, then discipleship is a joyful matter – we need to embrace this.**
11. Jesus began His sermon on the mount concerning the Kingdom (citizens) by noting the intended blessedness for His disciples, and the content of that blessedness – **Matthew 5:3-12**
	1. It is not the blessedness common to the world – depending on what we HAVE or what we get to DO.
	2. **It is a blessedness regarding WHO WE ARE, and that in RELATION TO GOD.**
	3. **(v. 3)** – humility, acknowledging spiritual dependency – we are fellowship with God as part of His kingdom.
	4. **(v. 4)** – sorrow for sin – receive comfort through pardon and fellowship.
	5. **(v. 5)** – in humility place self under God’s control – inherit the blessings promised of God in His kingdom.
	6. **(v. 6)** – hunger for spiritual, right relation to God – will be sustained in that state.
	7. **(v. 7)** – show mercy – receive mercy.
	8. **(v. 8)** – Pure, free from contaminants of sin – fellowship with God.
	9. **(v. 9)** – pursue peace with others – relation to God.
	10. **(vv. 10-12)** – persecuted for being this way, and living this way – we ar in fellowship with God and have eternal hope
		1. **(v. 12)** – rejoice – there is joy in a life of service to God, even and especially when we suffer for it – **cf. Philippians 3:10** – further identified with Jesus, closer to Him.
12. Jesus had immense joy in doing His Father’s will, and died for us that we could have the same joy – **John 15:9-11**
13. The life of devoted faith in Jesus as His disciple is a life of joy and peace – **Romans 15:13**
14. Let the Word be Incarnate in You
15. Jesus is the incarnate word – **John 1:14**
	1. Incarnate – made flesh, embodied in the flesh.
	2. **John 1:1** – the Word is God, and God became flesh – the truth of who God is, His character, His wisdom, His spiritual nature, was embodied, shown in a physical life.
16. Jesus is the fulness of God bodily, and we are complete in Him – **Colossians 2:9-10**
17. This means our learning and knowing are not an end in themselves, but are for the purpose of becoming, being changed – **Romans 12:1-2** – renewing of mind by God’s will (**cf. Ephesians 4:23-24** – ***“righteousness and holiness of the truth,” NASB***)
18. “Discipleship is not a condition for amassing information. Every doctrine has its issue in some clearly defined duty, every theory taught reveals a practical application and responsibility. To the soul in right relationship with the Teacher, He reveals some new aspect of truth, and straightway there occurs some circumstance in which that doctrine may be tested by duty” (Morgan, G. Campbell)
	1. **Colossians 3:16** – the word needs to dwell in us, become who we are.
	2. **Proverbs 3:5-8** – rather than making decisions on our own, and acting by our will, we yield to God’s wisdom and will through His word – we let Him control us.
	3. **Galatians 2:20** – we are no longer living (self-denial), because we have surrendered ourselves fully to the control of Christ through His word.
19. Jesus’ incarnation was for the purpose of revealing God to others – **John 1:18**
	1. Part of letting the word be incarnate in us is revealing Christ to others through how we live.
	2. We are to be vessels of the gospel – **2 Corinthians 4:6-7**
	3. **This new life is not one we keep to ourselves, but one we are eager to share with others!**
20. Rest Your Hope Fully on the Coming of Jesus
21. This walk in newness of life is a walk with and toward a new hope – **Romans 6:4, 22-23**
22. The calling of a Christian is one with hope – **Ephesians 1:18**
	1. **This is because of the “newness of life,” but is also part of what makes it a “newness of life.”**
	2. The way we lived before “in the flesh” – i.e. under the control of fleshly desires, and for our fleshly appetite – had no hope at all – **1 Corinthians 15:32-34**
	3. Some say, “Live like there’s no tomorrow” – meaning, take advantage of every opportunity to experience pleasure and happiness in this life because it may bee over soon.
	4. **What the Christian should do – “Live like eternity starts tomorrow” – Romans 13:11-14**
23. Every day we wake up we should be looking forward to the coming of Christ, and the eternal reward He is bringing, and live as though it was happening today – **1 Peter 1:13-16**

**Conclusion**

1. Christians are those who have been made new. Their daily walk is in respect to this newness.
2. Rather than thinking about what might bring satisfaction to their flesh, they think in relation to having an eternal spirit, and act accordingly.
3. They rejoice in their relationship with God in Christ, and delight in nothing more than living for Him.
4. They study God’s will and do so in order to live it in their daily life. They have relinquished control, and now Christ lives in them.
5. Christians are those who live for something beyond this life. Their constant focus, and daily meditation is on heaven’s reward.