



The moment we came to faith in Christ, everything changed. We did far more than embrace a new belief system or adopt a new life style, we entered an entirely new realm. Paul captures the idea beautifully in his letter to the Corinthians, “If anyone is in Christ the new creation has come.”

Some of the things that were once true of us are no longer true. We are no longer what we once were. In our Old Humanity we lived in solidarity with Adam. We were rebels at heart, reigning and ruling in our own lives, frantically trying to achieve our own righteousness, and living for our own renown and glory.

In our New Humanity, we live in solidarity with Christ. We have been “rescued from the dominion of darkness and been brought into the glorious kingdom of the Son He loves.” We are clothed in His righteousness rather than the filthy garments of self-justification we once proudly wore. We have been adopted into His family and have received an inheritance that is beyond our wildest hopes and dreams.

Paul tells us we need to take decisive action against the vestiges of what we once were, and clothe ourselves with the heart and character that is consistent with who we are in Christ.

### IDENTIFYING HEART IDOLATRIES (vv. 5-8)

Paul uses visceral language to describe how we should respond to the person we once were. He tells us to put to death everything that belongs to our earthly nature, and to “rid ourselves” of the attitudes that once characterized our relationships with others. Most of the issues that Paul describes exist beneath the surface and reveal our heart idolatries—the things we once longed for and the way we used to respond to those who got in our way.

1. Three of the first five attitudes that Paul describes have to do with “human sexuality.” How can sexuality become an idol in our lives? What happens when it does?
2. What are some of the other things we long for (evil desires and greed) that overwhelm our desire for God and capture our imagination?
3. What happens when we look to the things of this world for purpose and meaning?
4. Why do you think Paul uses such visceral language “put to death” and “rid yourself”?
5. How does God’s wrath demonstrate the depth of His love for us?

### REMEMBERING WHO WE ARE (vv. 9-11)

Paul reminds us that we are not what we once were. In Christ we are part of the New Creation and are in fact, a New Humanity.

1. How does “lying to one another” summarize everything we were before we came to Christ?
2. In our Old Humanity we lived in solidarity with Adam. On top of “living a lie,” what else characterized the people we once were?

3. In our New Humanity we live in solidarity with Christ. Everything that is true of Christ is true of us. What are some of the new realities we enjoy?
4. How does living as part of the New Humanity impact the distinctions that once separated us from the rest of Humanity?

### LIVING IN LIGHT OF WHO WE ARE (vv. 12-14)

In spite of the fact that we are part of the New Humanity, we sometimes live as if we still belonged to the Old. The character traits that Paul emphasizes in these verses create the New Community that grows out of our New Humanity.

1. What are the qualities that Paul tells us should characterize our New Humanity?
2. Why is living as a New Community so critical to being a part of the New Humanity?
3. What does the fact that we need to “bear with one another” and “forgive one another” reveal about life in Community?
4. How does love bind all of these other qualities together?
5. What is the most important thing you will take away from this study?