



A New Creation

Galatians 6:12-15

Tuesday, June 28th, 2020

¹² Those who want to impress people by means of the flesh are trying to compel you to be circumcised. The only reason they do this is to avoid being persecuted for the cross of Christ. ¹³ Not even those who are circumcised keep the law, yet they want you to be circumcised that they may boast about your circumcision in the flesh. ¹⁴ May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. ¹⁵ Neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything; what counts is the new creation.”

I imagine the Galatian church sitting altogether after they read Paul’s letter. Maybe there was a heavy silence. Maybe some of the members had now seen that they have burdened others with the work they themselves just didn’t want to do. Maybe there was a general feeling of freedom in the room, like fresh wind on a hot, sticky day. Those who have been suffering under the weight of trying to stand righteous before God now experience a wonderful freedom as they sit in silent reflection on Jesus and His greatness. Jesus gifted them with complete and utter grace, allowing them to be with Him forever!

Perhaps others were sitting there and agreeing with Paul but had no idea where to go from there. I think I would have been in this group. As far as I know, circumcision is not a current problem in the Calvary, so I wonder what Paul would have written to us to help us come back to the truth, namely what it means to be “a new creation.” In any case it means to be something completely new, as in completely different than before. Where circumcision makes one proud due to a physical sign of change, being a new creation frees us from the desire to prove anything; we are simply new! And to be a new creation means to love your neighbor, just as Jesus served His Father and disciples in everything.

A new creation also stands in direct conflict with the world. Where circumcision may be a simple one-and-done act, being a new creation means standing in Jesus. If the world hates Jesus, then how can we as a new creation not be in conflict with the world?

That’s why it’s my wish that Jesus shows me where I have set up patterns of behavior that serve me and not my neighbor; that He shows me where I mold my faith to my surroundings because it’s easier and not the other way around. I hope He shows me these things so I can let go of them with His strength, so I can be fully with Him as this new creature.

Prayer: *Father, thank You that You have made me new; that we don’t have to make ourselves new so You will love us. Forgive me where I have used this life You have given me to get recognition at the cost of others. Forgive me where I have tried to bring my faith in harmony with the world. Humble me so I can serve those whom You love with Your whole heart. Show me where I have tried to fit in with the culture, behavior and thinking of this world because it’s more comfortable. Let me fully enjoy Your presence as a new creation. Amen!*

-Micha Kress-

