

New Man Discipleship Training 2021

After-Class Meditation, Practice, and Discussion Topics

As Always, So Now Also Christ Will Be Magnified in My Body

2021.05.02 New Man Discipleship Training ND2-002: Becoming a New Creation (1): The Purpose and Value of the Creation of Man by Pastor Yu

2021.04.11 New Man Discipleship Training ND2-001: Becoming a Disciple of Jesus Christ by Pastor Yu

Outline

A. God created all things for a positive purpose

"You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created." (Revelation 4:11)

"For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible ... All things were created through Him and for Him." (Colossians 1:16)

B. The special creation of man and its purpose

1. Only men can become children of God with a special and loved (dear) status

"Adam is the Son of God." (Luke 3:38)

"You are the children of the Lord your God." (Deuteronomy 14:1)

2. Only man was created in the image of God according to the likeness of God for His glory

"God said, 'Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness.'" (Genesis 1:26)

"Everyone who is called by My name, Whom I have created for My glory; I have formed him, yes, I have made him." (Isaiah 43:7)

3. Only man was breathed into the breath of life by God and became "a living being"

"...the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being." (Genesis 2:7)

"But there is a spirit in man, and the breath of the Almighty gives him understanding." (Job 32:8)

4. Only man has been entrusted by God with the important responsibility of managing (having dominion over) all the earth

“... let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air; and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” (Genesis 1:26)

“...the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it.” (Genesis 2:15)

5. Only the relationship of husbands and wives foreshadows the mysteries of Christ and the Church

“‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.’ This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.” (Ephesians 5:31-32; Genesis 2:24)

C. The Fall of Man and God’s Restoration

1. The Fall of Man

“...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...” (Romans 3:23a)

“... just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned...” (Romans 5:12)

“...you ... who were dead in trespasses and sins, ... walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, ... conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.” (Ephesians 2:1-3)

“...although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God...” (Romans 1:21)

“...you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works...” (Colossians 1:21)

2. The Restoration in Christ

“...if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.” (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Regarding the above five aspects of the special creation of man, we list a few verses from the New Testament to look at the viewpoint – “what God has restored in Christ far exceeds what men had lost after the fall of men.”

1) *“Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God!” (1 John 3:1)*

“... having been justified by faith, we have peace with God... we have access by faith into this grace ... and rejoice in ... God.” (Romans 5:1-5, 10-11)

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ...” (Ephesians 1:3-14)

2) *“28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. 29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son...30 Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.” (Romans 8:28-30)*

3) *“...Christ who is our life...” (Colossians 3:4)*

“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me.” (Galatians 2:20)

“...to me, to live is Christ...” (Philippians 1:21)

4) *“...put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church.” (Ephesians 1:22)*

“Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” (Matthew 18:18)

5) *“23 ...the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church...25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her...” (Ephesians 5:23-25)*

“...the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.” (Revelation 19:7)

“...which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.” (Ephesians 1:23)

Meditation, Practice, Discussion

- Content Review: Based on the theme verse and content of this lesson, what are some questions you may have?**

1. Fill-in-the-blank questions: Based on this message, we should correctly understand the purpose of all God's creation in three aspects:

God _____ anything wrong.

God _____ anything _____.

Everything God does has a _____ purpose.

2. What is the purpose of the special creation of man? Please list the five aspects from the message. How was the purpose changed after the fall of man? How did God specifically restore men in Christ in these five aspects?

3. *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new"* (2 Corinthians 5:17). According to the message in this lesson, explain what is "a new creation?" What do "old things" refer to?

- Further Reflection: The impact of this lesson on me, the revelation (illumination) of the Holy Spirit, and additional thoughts**

Week 1: This lesson emphasized "what God has restored in Christ far exceeds what men had lost after the fall of men." From the five aspects of the purpose of man God has restored, list at least three things that you are especially thankful for under the new covenant (This is not to emphasize theoretical concepts but your true feelings of gratitude and the impact they have on you).

Week 2: A very important purpose of the special creation and restoration of men is to gain Christ as a group (the testimony of the church). Please briefly summarize your new learnings regarding this and the adjustment and changes that should happen in your life and service.

The Path to Implementation:

Daily Practice: Every day take out your two hands, use your fingers on your left hand to count the special purpose and value of man when God first created man and use your fingers on your right hand to count God's restoration and blessings in five aspects.

Week 1: Among the five aspects of "the special creation of man and its purpose" mentioned in this lesson, which ones have you neglected in your life? In the week ahead, please pray about each one of them and come up with ways to improve (you can focus on one or two aspects that you have neglected most in your everyday life). Then you can start practicing and share with your group members in your group next Sunday.

Week 2: Consider what you practiced last week and what you learned from your group discussion, enhance your ways of improvement, keep practicing and write down if you have changed.
