

All Things Are Become New

By R.T. Nusbaum

There are many people who come to Christ because their lives are broken and ruined. To come to Jesus with a crippled natural human life does not exempt one from the cross but actually is the reason he needs to do so. God has designated all of the first creation for death. The purpose in doing that is because His intention is to make all things new. Therefore, Jesus' intention is not to patch us up on the inside. His goal is to completely remake us. But let me change terms lest we misunderstand. Today there is much talk about people getting a "make-over." Basically it is the work of a cosmetologist, a hair stylist and a fashion expert. They come together over us and improve and enhance what we already have. But Jesus does something better than remaking us; He gives us a completely new life – His Life.

However, in order to bring about a whole new creation there is one thing required. That one thing is not a cosmetologist, hair stylist nor a fashion expert – it is the cross. Nobody gets around the cross for to do so deprives us of being able to live by our new life, which is the life of Christ.

There is a "putting off" that is required in order to complete the process. It is not the putting off of old hair styles or of outdated apparel. We are to "put off" the old man which relates to the nature we had before we met the Lord. Notice I said, "put off" not clean him up. Most new Christians set out to reform and improve their fallen nature by teaching it moral behavior and spiritual truths. However, in the sight of God the old nature has no capacity to develop quality virtues only religious actions. What you and I have by virtue of heredity falls so short of the glory of God. Even our very best cannot attain to Christ. Our natural virtues, no matter how good they may be, are not "out from" God. God has not imparted His nature to us so that we might ignore it and spend our time on this earth striving to become something we never can be. We need a source that is beyond human capacity.

Consider this: Why do so many strive so hard to produce more love, peace, etc when these things are clearly stated to be the fruit of the Spirit? This is not something we produce but something we bear. We are incapable of developing virtues apart from the divine nature within (II Peter 1:4). What we exhibit in terms of virtue does not come through natural ability but through Him who is the Vine (John 15:5).

So many Christians are discouraged because they seem to fail all the time. They have looked deep within themselves and realize that they do not have what it takes. If they do not hear the message of Christ in you as the hope of glory they are doomed to give up. In reality, we all need to give up, quit trying, and begin to rely on the life and nature of Jesus within to accomplish His purposes. "It is God at work in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure." ***

