**Personhood and Redemption**

(SELF in Christ v Self IN CHRIST)

2 Cor 3-4 and selected passages

Introduction

1. Personhood prior to the need of Redemption
   1. The Glory of God
   2. Mankind in the image of God [[1]](#footnote-1)
      1. Connection
      2. Reflection
         1. Rational
         2. Rulership
         3. Righteousness
         4. Relationships
2. Personhood after the Fall (Gen 3) and now in need of Redemption
   1. The Glory of Christ
   2. Mankind
      1. Connection
      2. Reflection
3. Personhood and Redemption Provided
   1. The Glory of Christ
   2. Mankind
      1. Connection
      2. Reflection

* “Crucial, then, is the work of God, including all persons of the Trinity, in the renewal, conformation, and transformation of humanity into God’s image in Christ. Nevertheless, people also play a necessary role in that process. God’s work does not render human effort unnecessary; rather, it enables it. God is the initiator – the creator and renewer. Humanity is simply the responder; but response is necessary.”[[2]](#footnote-2)
* Man must respond (humbly receiving this gift of eternal life)

“…Receiving Christ is the same as believing in Him. To “believe” in Jesus means more than merely knowing some intellectual facts about Him or simply acknowledging who He is and what He came to do. To believe in Him includes far more than feeling emotions about Jesus, being deeply convicted of your sin, and even being persuaded of your desperate need for Him. Believing in Jesus means more than recognizing He is the only One who can deliver you from your sin problem. To believe in Jesus Christ is a decisive act of the will by which a person commits his or her life to Him. Believing in Jesus means entrusting our life to Him in humble submission. It involves surrendering our life to Him as our Lord and submitting to His supreme authority. It necessitates denying ourselves and following Him. Anyone who becomes a child of God does so by believing in Jesus Christ.” [[3]](#footnote-3)

1. Personhood after Redemption
   1. The Glory of Christ
   2. Mankind
      1. Connected

* “I am the problem and Jesus is the solution”[[4]](#footnote-4)
  + - 1. We have a new position IN CHRIST (Rom 4-5) – union in Christ, forgiven, justified and adopted
      2. We have a new nature IN CHRIST (Rom 6-8) – new freedom to serve and love
      3. We have a new uniqueness IN CHRIST (Rom 9-11) – grafted in
      4. We have a new usefulness IN CHRIST (Rom 12-16) – created unto good works
* Be careful of “Identity” talk: SELF in christ vs self IN CHRIST
  + 1. Reflection: imperfect now but being transformed
* “Beholding is becoming.”[[5]](#footnote-5)
* God sovereignly accomplishes (passive tense) this work of sanctification by use of Spirit-empowered means (2 Cor 3:18):
  + - * 1. Beholding Glory in Bible study, meditation[[6]](#footnote-6)
        2. Beholding Glory in Prayer
        3. Beholding Glory in Fellowship
        4. Beholding Glory in Obedience
        5. Beholding Glory in Providential events
    1. At Glorification: Complete

Intentional Meditation:

* “Ultimately, the image of God is Jesus Christ. People are first created and later renewed according to that image. Image involves connection and reflection. Creation in God’s image entails a special connection with God and an intended reflection of God. Renewal in God’s image entails a more intimate connection with God through Christ and an increasingly actual reflection of God in Christ, to God’s glory. This connection with God is the basis of human dignity. This reflection of God is the beauty of human destiny. All of humanity participates in human dignity. All of humanity is offered human destiny, though only some embrace and will experience it. Christ and humanity, connection and reflection, dignity and destiny – these lie at the heart of what God’s image is all about.”[[7]](#footnote-7)

RESOURCES:

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Carson, D.A. The Gagging of God.

Dabney, R.L., Systematic Theology.

Deuel, Dave and Nathan Grills, article, “Kings and Queens on Mission: The image of God in God’s plan for disability.”

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Lawson, Steve. New Life in Christ.

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Matzat, Don. Christ Esteem.

Piper, John. God is the Gospel: Meditations on God’s Love as the Gift of Himself.

Riccardi, Michael. Sanctification: The Christian’s Pursuit of God-given Holiness.

Warfield, B.B., Faith and Life.

1. John Kilner, Dignity and Destiny: Humanity in the Image of God. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Kilner, 252 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Steve Lawson, New Life in Christ, 19 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Don Matzat, Christ Esteem, pp 52-53. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. John Piper, God is the Gospel: Meditations on God’s Love as the Gift of Himself, 90 [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Sanctification: The Christian’s Pursuit of God-given Holiness, Michael Riccardi, 35 [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Kilner, xi [↑](#footnote-ref-7)