

THE CHRISTIAN TEEN/YOUTH

I. New Life in Christ

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"

2 Corinthians 5:17-18 NIV

To resurrect to new life, you have to have died to the old life first. The new life in Christ cannot begin in you until the old life of sin and flesh is put away (because it is a dead life). It died from the day of man's fall (Gen. 2:17). Where death has not occurred, resurrection or life cannot be spoken about.

God made man and breathed true life into him. But when man sinned, there came a death separation from God's kind of life - that separation from the divine life was the death of humanity. The light God commanded turned to darkness (Isa. 60:2). All kinds of evil were empowered because the true life rooted in the light God commanded ceased, and the whole world turned against each other.

When God said, "let there be light!" (Gen. 1:2) he was calling forth the life of Christ, which manifests itself in love, joy, peace, patience...justice, righteousness, and all other fruits produced by the Holy Spirit (Gal. 5:22). God was declaring; he was introducing what manner of lifestyle earth should be founded upon, and expressed in the man he had made in his own exact image and likeness.

God waited patiently to bring Jesus on the scene. If Jesus is the exact image and likeness of God, he lived that way, a life characterized with all the fruits of the Holy Spirit. Adam was also made to live on earth and bear children with the same characters of God which we see displayed in the life of Jesus Christ.

But at the resurrection of the new life of Christ in anybody, the lost power of life is restored (John 1:12). The world can again be brought into subjection through the word of God in the mouth of the believer, because of the resurrection that has taken place in the believer - the lost life resurrects.

The new life of Christ is the power of God in every believer to subdue and dominate it, enforcing the character of the kingdom life everywhere they may be earth. The gospel is the power of God. Anyone who believes and receives the gospel is again enabled to so (1 Cor. 1:18-24).