

B.A.M.

The Miracle of Our New Covenant Heart

I. Eavesdropping on the Trinity (Zephaniah 3:17; Jeremiah 29:10-11)

II. The biblical basis for God's delight

Ezekiel 36:25-27; Jeremiah 31:31-33; 1 Corinthians 11:25; John 4:13; 1 Corinthians 3:16; 1 Corinthians 6:19; 2 Corinthians 3; Hebrews 8-10:25

Do you tend to think of God as outside or inside your body?

“If our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit, our hearts are the Holy of Holies.”
John Eldredge

We all know this but often dismiss it as mere “theology.” We don't consider the profound implications these truths have for our spiritual growth.

III. Through the New Covenant we have:

A new identity

Costume jewelry is essentially worthless metal covered with an attractive coating. Looks good on the outside, worthless on the inside. Many Christians believe their goodness is shallow and their badness runs deep. Many see themselves in that way—covered by the blood yet sinners through and through.

Tarnished silver is a much truer image of who we are after conversion. The new believer isn't a sinner by definition but a saint who struggles with sin.

We find this hard to believe. It doesn't sound orthodox. But Scripture is clear. You and I are not merely forgiven sinners; we are new creations in Christ.

Our fallen nature is still resident in our overall condition, but it is no longer the primary homeowner. It no longer defines us. It's not our ruling master (Romans 6). We no longer have to obey it. We can and, deep down, want love and obey God because that's what Jesus, who lives in us, always wants to do.

When God looks at you what do you believe is the expression on his face? When he looks at you the first thing he sees is a new purity. He sees Jesus in you. “This is my beloved son!” That's your deepest and truest identity if you are in Christ.

The term, “in Christ” is used 82 times in Paul's letters. This truth is the bedrock of his theology.

“If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.” 2 Corinthians 5:16-17

“Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who is *in you*, whom you have received from God?” 1 Corinthians 6:19

“Don’t you know that you yourselves are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit lives *in you*?” 1 Corinthians 6:19

Paul doesn’t address believers as sinners needing to shape up but as saints needing to remember who they really are.” *Revolution Within*, Edwards

What about Jeremiah 17:9? “The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure.” That is *why* a new covenant had to be brought in. Jeremiah foretells it’s coming (31:31-33).

A new inclination and power

Jeremiah 31:33; Ezekiel 36:25-27

Which would you choose- Christ by your side, telling you what to do, or the Holy Spirit in your heart?

Tiger Woods

“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live but *Christ lives in me.*”
Galatians 2:20

IV. Concluding Thoughts

Our calling isn’t primarily to *coerce* one another to go God’s way but to help each other see that is what we most deeply *want* to do (Friend admitting he looked at porn).

The law (Love God with all your heart and your neighbor yourself) is already written on our hearts if we are in Christ. Therefore, as we prayerfully study and listen to his Word, it will resonate with what is already inside us. Every command we come across in the Bible is a vigorous reminder to do what we already desire. The Scriptures simply clarify in our minds what we already want to do in our regenerate heart.

When faced with temptation don’t ask, “What do I want?” but “What’s deepest in me? What do I *most deeply* want?”

While many times these inclinations don’t feel real, that doesn’t mean they are not real. They’re temporarily in hiding, lurking beneath the surface of competing inclinations of our flesh that seem more alive at the time.

V. Questions for discussion

How would these truths influence the way you see God, yourself and others if you fully embraced them?

How would you relate to others differently if you believed this about your spouse, kids, friends, co-workers, enemies?

How would these truths help you in your fight to overcome sin? Can you give a current example?