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## II Corinthians 5:14-17

14. “For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died;

15. and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.

16. Therefore from now on we recognize no one according to the flesh; even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him in this way no longer.

17. Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.”

That last verse, verse 17, that we are made new in Christ, is one of the most beautiful and powerful concepts in all of Scripture. I first learned verse 17 in the Old King James which resounds with the drama of Shakespearean English: “Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new!”

Truly the Christian is a new creature. The natural man, originally created in the image of God, consists of 3 parts--body, soul, and spirit. I Thessalonians 5:23

indicates this in the statement: “May your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.” Note the spirit in all men has a small “s” as used in this Scripture.

When a person becomes a Christian, the Holy Spirit comes to indwell his body. Romans 8:16 puts it this way: “The Spirit Himself (capital “S” on Spirit, capital “H” on Himself) bears witness with our spirit (small “s” on spirit) that we are children of God.”

So in a real sense the Christian is a totally new creature--Homo Sapiens have three parts; body, soul, and spirit. But Christians have four parts--body, soul, spirit (small “s”) and the Holy Spirit (capital “S”).

II Corinthians 5:17 goes on to promise that for the new creature in Christ, the old things passed away and new things come to replace them. Of course the old things that passed away are our old sinful habits and desires. We no longer live for ourselves, but for Christ who died and arose on our behalf. The Holy Spirit takes away the desire to sin and live life selfishly--and He gives us a yearning desire for the things of God.

I remember before I became a Christian I used to love to backpack all summer long, going into the back country after school or work on Fridays and get back home after dark on Sunday. Now I love to be around the Lord’s Table for His supper with His people on Sunday morning. The Spirit changed my desires; now I wouldn’t

want to be anywhere else on the Lord's Day but with His people, celebrating His resurrection. Thirty years ago if you told me I'd be sitting in church on a summer Sunday morning voluntarily, I'd have told you that you've got the wrong man! The new you in Christ consist of four parts; the natural man contains only three parts.

Happy New Year to you all, but most importantly--  
Happy New You.