

THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

Ephesians 4:20-24

Lesson #21

Repentance #2 The new self

12/17/2017

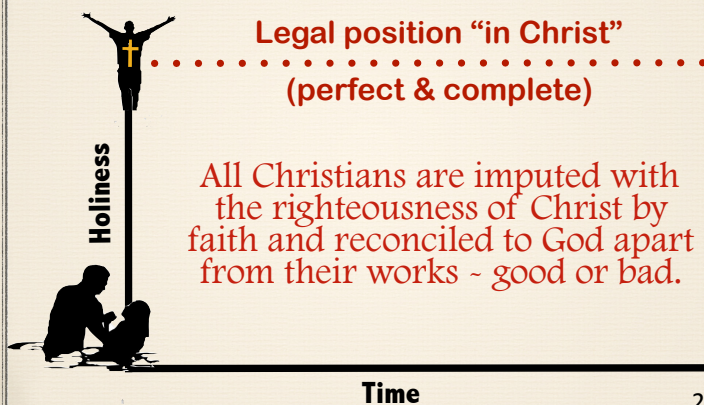
What is your theology of change?



Dr Larry Crabb

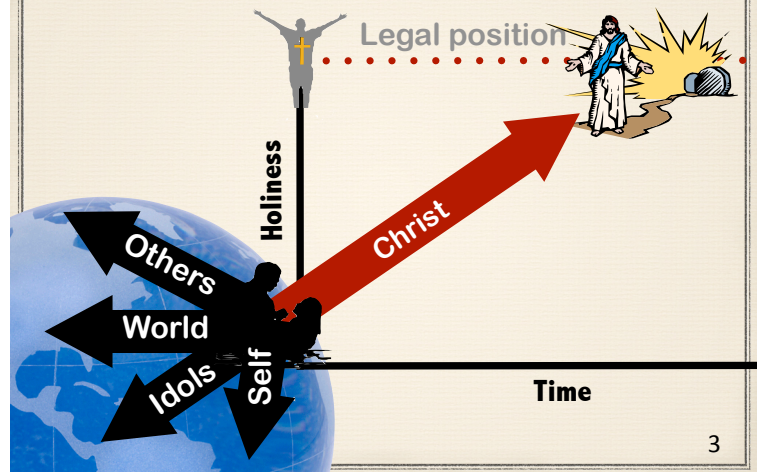
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1. Our legal position in Christ has changed absolutely at our conversion.



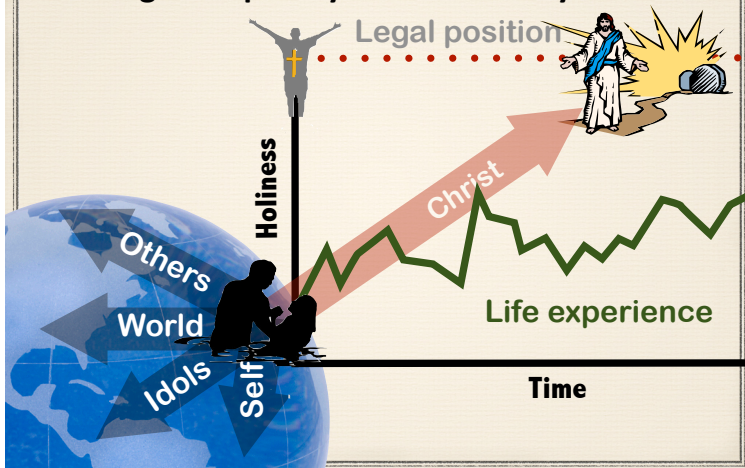
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2. Our hope & direction in life is also set.



3

3. But our behavior in life may not change completely or immediately.



Ephesians 4

“20 But you did not learn Christ in this way, 21 if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus, 22 that, in reference to your former manner of life, you **lay aside the old self**, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, 23 and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24 and **put on the new self**, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.”

What does it mean

**to “lay aside” the old
and “put on” the new?**



4

As Christians we possess two conflicting natures.

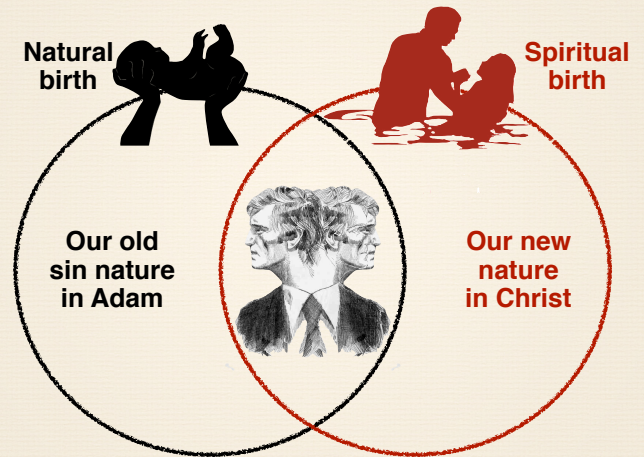
Galatians 5

“16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. 17 For **the flesh** sets its desire against the Spirit, and **the Spirit** against the flesh; for **these are in opposition to one another**, so that you may not do the things that you please.”

We must **exercise our will** in determining which of their competing desires will control our behavior.

6

We have desires that pull us in differing directions.



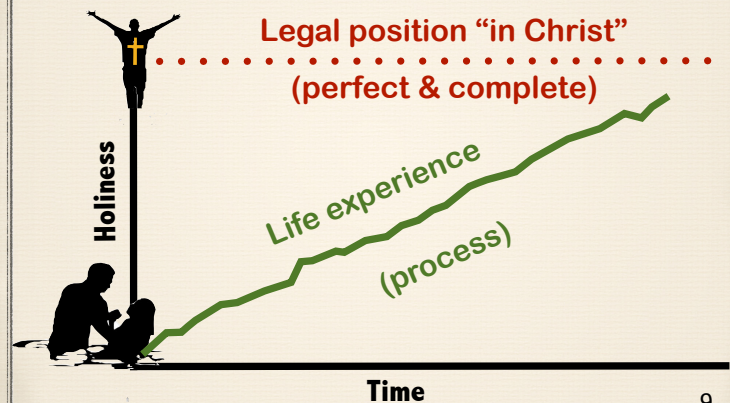
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We are to put off the old self **and put on the new self**



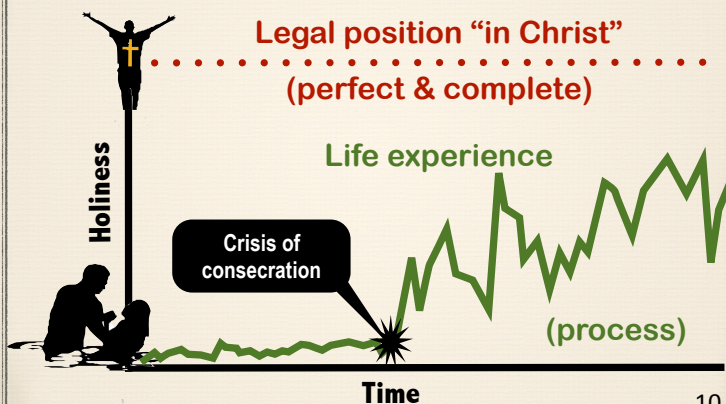
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Some Christians see this as a gradual process or growth.



9

Others see this as a dramatic experience followed by a process.



10

Higher Life luminaries

“Like a river glorious is God’s perfect peace”

“Take my Life and let it be”

“Let go and let God.”



Frances Ridley Havergal



11

HE THAT IS SPIRITUAL
LEWIS SPERRY CHAFER

The normal Christian Life
WATCHMAN NEE

Christian's SECRET TO A HAPPY Life
HANNAH WHITALL SMITH

Lewis Sperry Chafer Watchman Nee Hannah Whitall Smith

12

Some expect there to be many repeated consecrations .

Legal position "in Christ"
(perfect & complete)

Life experience

Crisis of consecration

(process)

Holiness

Time

13

What do we know?

- ✓ Real change is **not easy or instant**.
- ✓ We will **not outgrow our need** for change in this life.
- ✓ Real change is an **inside - out** process.
- ✓ Real change may take **many different paths**.
- ✓ Real change has some common elements: **pain, insight, resolve, time**.

14

Repent

μετανοέω
metanoeo

meta - "after"
noeo - "to perceive"

to change the way we "see things" and thus how we behave

15

Luke 15:11-21

repentance

Action

Resolve

Insight

Pain

Foolish living

Independence

16

Three important ingredients

- ✓ **Pain** - feeling the heat.
"I can't go on this way."

C.S. Lewis

"Pain insists upon being attended to. God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our consciences, but **shouts in our pains**. It is his megaphone to rouse a deaf world."

17

The only difference between

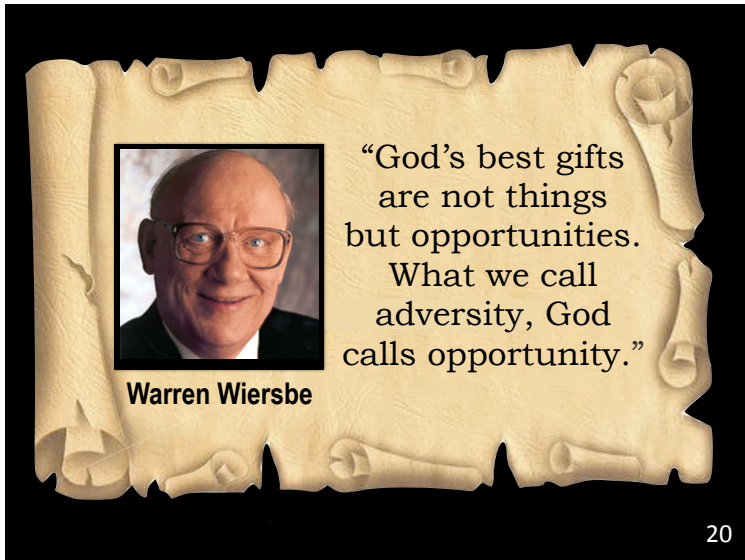


2 Corinthians 7:9

"I now rejoice, not that you were made sorrowful, but that **you were made sorrowful to the point of repentance**; for you were made sorrowful according to the will of God, in order that you might not suffer loss in anything through us."

Sorrow (pain)
can have a hidden blessing.

19



Spiritual wellbeing is measured, not by our ability to medicate our pain so much as to
learn from it.

21

God's blessings can be missed when we resist discipline, pass the blame, & kill the pain, in our story.

22

Consider

1. Examine your **attitude** toward pain and suffering.
2. Don't **medicate** pain without learning from it.
3. Resist the temptation to think short term. Keep the **big picture** in mind.
 - Realistic expectations
 - Broad perspective
 - Kingdom priorities
4. The **truth** is always better for us than fantasy and denial.

23

Three important ingredients

✓ **Pain** - feeling the heat. "I can't go on this way."

✓ **Insight** - seeing the light. "I get it."



Thomas Carlyle

"Nothing is more terrible than activity without insight."

24

Ephesians 1-3

New life in Christ 1:3-23		New society in Christ 2:1-3:21	
The Blessings of Christ 1:3-14	Prayer for insight 1:15-23	The Body of Christ 2:1-3:13	Prayer for insight 3:14-21

In ch.1-3 there is only one exhortation (2:11 "remember") and two intercessions for insight.

Our wealth in Christ ch. 1-3	Our walk in Christ ch. 4-6
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Ch.4-6 are full of exhortations

25

Why does prayer
for deliverance from sin
seldom work?

We tend to pray for the wrong thing.

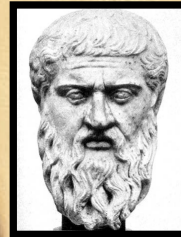
Note what Paul prays for -

1. He does not pray for **deliverance** from sins.
2. He prays for **insight** to see ourselves, God and sin realistically.



26

Plato



"Goodness requires insight, not simply rule - following and will power."

27

The Prodigal Son's insight

"¹⁷ But when he **came to his senses**, he said, 'How many of my father's hired men have more than enough bread, but **I am dying here with hunger!**'"

He sees his own culpability.
(not his environment, bad luck, others, etc.)

He sees his true home and identity.
(his father's home looked very attractive)

He sees the need to come home
(not just the need to try harder to do better)

28

**Facing in the right direction
makes it easier to make good decisions.**

- Take your baptism seriously - renew the mind
- Strategic (macro) decisions sets the stage for good tactical (micro) decisions.



29

Consider

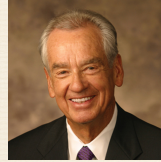
1. **Pray for insight** more than relief from pain and suffering or more “will power”.
2. Don't manage life from a set of **rules** but rather, seek **wisdom**.
3. Be prepared to **let go** of something old so you can hang on to something new.
4. **Tell yourself the truth** - about yourself, the world, and God.

30

Three important ingredients

- ✓ **Pain** - feeling the heat. “I can't go on this way.”
- ✓ **Insight** - seeing the light. “I get it.”

✓ **Resolve** - charting the path. “Let's do it.”



Zig Ziglar
Motivational Speaker

It was character that got us out of bed, **commitment that moved us into action**, and discipline that enabled us to follow through.”

31

Why don't people change?

1. They **don't really want to** unless it is easy, fast, and painless.
2. They **focus on managing pain** without learning from it.
3. They **refuse to let go** of the old self with its medicinal comforts.
4. They **don't have a plan** that starts with facing in the right direction from within a supportive community.



32

Closing thoughts

1. It's hard to turn **TO** something if we are unwilling also to turn **FROM** something.
2. **PAIN** can be a doorway to real change if we respond to it wisely.
3. Dramatic change is more **POSSIBLE** than we realize but it may require more work and time than we expect.
4. We seldom change until we **REALLY, REALLY WANT TO**.
5. **PRAY** for eyes to see the ugliness of sin and the beauty of righteousness.

33