

THE RULE OF BEING A NEW CREATURE

Because of God's reconciliation through Christ, anyone who is "*in Christ, he is a new creature*" (2 Cor. 5:17). Thus the power-saving gospel of Christ makes this urgent appeal to all: "*be reconciled to God*" (5:20). We are sinners because we have sinned. If we continue to practice sin, we are enemies of God. So the call of the Son's good news is all about change – change of direction, change of allegiance, change of masters, change of life, change of relationships, change of purpose, change of desires, change of goals.

To be in Christ is to be in fellowship with Christ and to put have put on Christ. How do we do that? "*Anyone who goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God; the one who abides in the teaching, he has both the Father and the Son.*" (2 John 9) "*For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.*" (Gal. 3:26-27) "...*Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death?*" (Rom. 6:3)

The apostle reminds Christians that being a new creature in Christ is what being a Christian is all about, and thus they are to be walking by that rule (Gal. 6:15, 16). A rule [*kanon* in Greek] is a standard. Disciples of Christ must endeavor to be in line with Christ. That is done by abiding in His doctrine, in His truth (cf. John 8:31). The governing rule that is from Christ is revealed in the gospel, and the gospel of Christ calls us to and instructs us in newness. "*Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life*" (Rom. 6:4). "*Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh...*" (Gal. 5:24). "...*Put on the new self, which in the likeness of God, has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth*" (Eph. 4:24).