

A group of people are seated at a dining table in a restaurant, engaged in conversation and eating. The scene is dimly lit, with warm ambient lighting. In the foreground, a hand is seen holding a fork over a plate of food. A glass of white wine and a dark bottle are also visible on the table. The background shows other diners and the interior of the restaurant, which is slightly out of focus.

Glorify the Creator

2 Cor. 5:14-21

*“The Wondrous Relationship of the
Creator with the New Creature”*

2 Cor. 5:14 For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that **if one died for all, then were all dead:**

15 And *that* he died for all, that **they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.**

16 Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we *him* no more.

17 Therefore **if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature:** old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

18 And all things *are* of God, who hath **reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ,** and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;

19 To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath **committed unto us the word of reconciliation.**

20 **Now then we are ambassadors for Christ,** as though God did beseech *you* by us: we pray *you* in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.

21 For **he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin;** that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

Review

The meaning of life, why we are here, the purpose of mankind's existence, has been intriguing for many thinkers for many centuries:

“The purpose of life is not to be happy. It is to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate, to have it make some difference that you have lived and lived well.”

— **Ralph Waldo Emerson**

“The purpose of life is to live it, to taste experience to the utmost, to reach out eagerly and without fear for newer and richer experience.”

— **Eleanor Roosevelt**

“The mystery of human existence lies not in just staying alive, but in finding something to live for.”

— **Fyodor Dostoyevsky, The Brothers Karamazov**



“You were put on this earth to achieve your greatest self, to live out your purpose, and to do it courageously.”

— **Steve Maraboli, *Life, the Truth, and Being Free***

“It is not that we have so little time but that we lose so much. ... The life we receive is not short but we make it so; we are not ill provided but use what we have wastefully.”

— **Seneca, *On the Shortness of Life***

“All religions, arts and sciences are branches of the same tree. All these aspirations are directed toward ennobling man's life, lifting it from the sphere of mere physical existence and leading the individual towards freedom.”

[*Moral Decay* (first published 1937)]”

— **Albert Einstein, *Out of My Later Years: The Scientist, Philosopher, and Man Portrayed Through His Own Words***

“If there is no God, then man and the universe are doomed. Like prisoners condemned to death, we await our unavoidable execution. There is no God, and there is no **immortality**. And what is the consequence of this? It means that life itself is absurd. It means that the life we have is without ultimate significance, value, or purpose.”

— **William Lane Craig, Reasonable Faith**

“To have a purpose in life was a wealth that could never be measured.”

— **Danielle Bennett, Dragon Soul**

<https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/tag/purpose-of-life?page=2>

Consider the logic of this passage:

- “...if one died for all, then were all dead...”
(Gen. 2:17, Rom. 5:12)

Eph 2:1 And **you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; ...**

5 **Even when we were dead in sins**, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

Col 2:13 And you, **being dead in your sins** and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;

- “And *that* he died for all, that **they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.**”
- Conclusion = all of mankind is in the same boat, spiritual death, and God has a plan for all mankind to live.
- Such a plan is...

“The Wondrous Relationship of the Creator with the New Creature”

I. THE CREATOR’S INVOLVEMENT WITH HIS NEW CREATURE

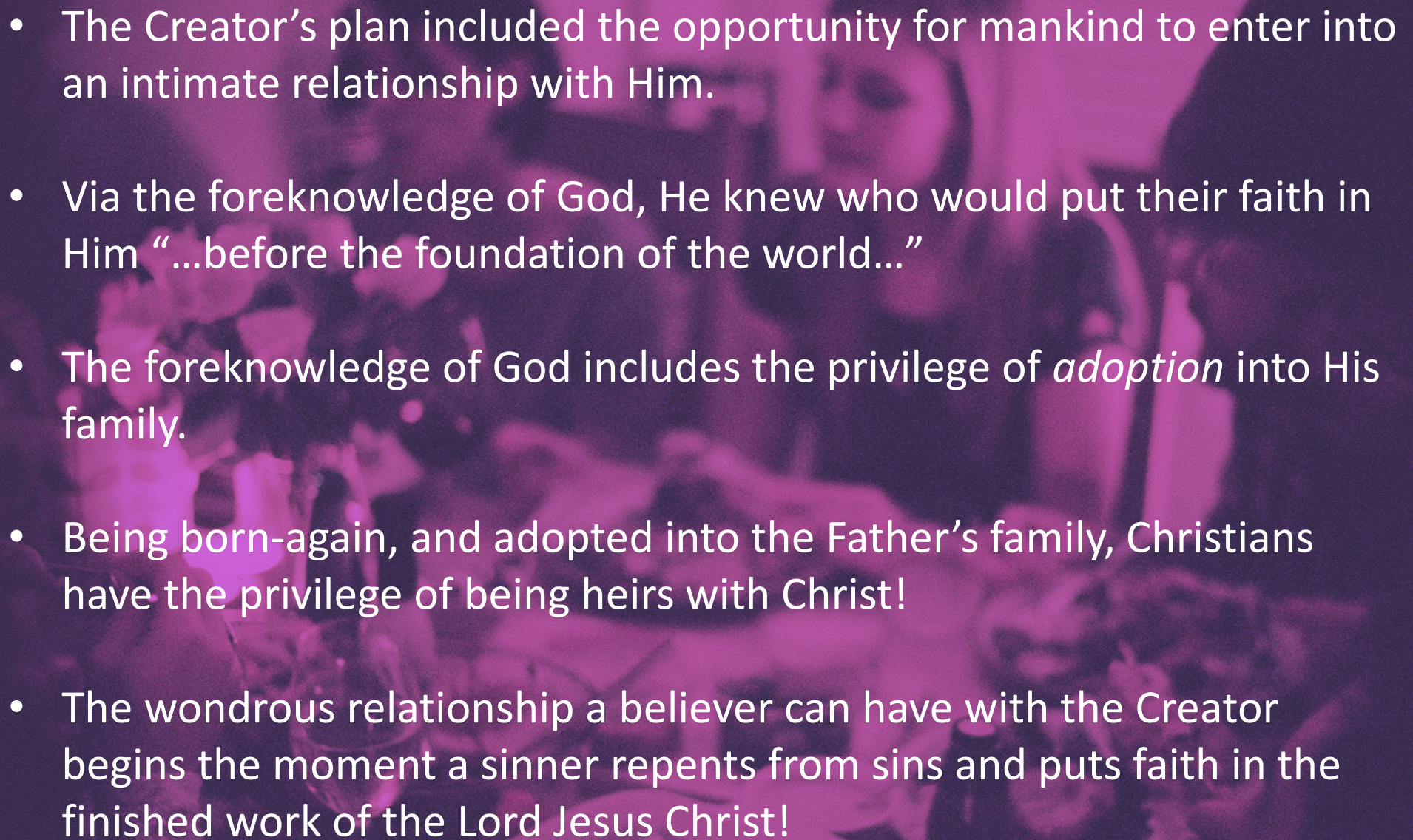
A. The Creator’s Plan

- The Creator’s plan is that mankind glorifies Him.

B. The Creature’s Problem

- The Creator’s plan included knowledge that mankind would need a Savior.
- The Creator’s plan was promised BEFORE the world began!

C. The Christian’s Privilege

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- A photograph of a group of people sitting around a table, likely at a restaurant or dining room. The image is heavily overlaid with a semi-transparent purple color. The people are engaged in conversation and eating. There are plates of food, glasses, and a bottle on the table. The background is slightly blurred, focusing attention on the group.
- The Creator’s plan included the opportunity for mankind to enter into an intimate relationship with Him.
 - Via the foreknowledge of God, He knew who would put their faith in Him “...before the foundation of the world...”
 - The foreknowledge of God includes the privilege of *adoption* into His family.
 - Being born-again, and adopted into the Father’s family, Christians have the privilege of being heirs with Christ!
 - The wondrous relationship a believer can have with the Creator begins the moment a sinner repents from sins and puts faith in the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ!

II. THE CREATOR'S INSPIRATION FOR HIS NEW CREATURE

A. The Contrasting Relationships

1 Cor. 15:45 And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam *was made* a quickening spirit.

46 Howbeit **that *was* not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural**; and **afterward that which is spiritual**.

47 The first man *is* of the earth, earthy: the second man *is* the Lord from heaven.

48 **As *is* the earthy, such *are* they also that are earthy**: and **as *is* the heavenly, such *are* they also that are heavenly**.

49 And as **we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly**.

- When we are born, naturally, we resemble the first Adam.
- By nature, we have carnal desires and actions.
- Resemblances in families are natural due to physical DNA influences.
- Spiritual resemblances are characteristics due to spiritual DNA relationships.
- Our first birth is natural (“flesh”) and we must have a second birth (“spiritual”):

Jn. 3:5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

6 That which is **born of the flesh is flesh**; and that which is **born of the Spirit is spirit**.

7 Marvel not that I said unto thee, **Ye must be born again**.

- In order to have spiritual characteristics, we must be born-again, spiritually
- When a person is born-again, the spiritual characteristics become evident:

Rom. 8:15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but **ye have received the Spirit of adoption**, whereby we cry, **Abba, Father.**

16 **The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit**, that **we are the children of God:**

Gal. 5:22 But **the fruit of the Spirit is** love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,
23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

- What is the purpose for a believer to have spiritual characteristics?

B. The Conforming Reconstruction

Rom 8:29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate **to be conformed to the image of his Son**, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Original Word: σύμμορφος

Transliteration: summorphos

Definition: similar, conformed to.

sýmmorphos – *properly*, conformed, **by sharing the same inner essence-identity (form)**; showing **similar behavior from having the same essential nature** <http://biblehub.com/greek/4832.htm>

Phil. 3:21 Who shall change our vile body, that it may be **fashioned like unto** his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.

Phil. 3:10 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, **being made conformable** unto his death;

- Once a person is born-again, the conformation of spiritual characteristics identify us with the Lord Jesus Christ “...**to be conformed to the image of his Son...**”
- However, once one is born-again, the old nature is still within us, causing a spiritual warfare within our soul.

Rom. 7:14 For we know that the law is spiritual: **but I am carnal**, sold under sin.

15 For **that which I do I allow not**: for **what I would, that do I not**; but **what I hate, that do I**.

16 If then **I do that which I would not**, I consent unto the law that *it is* good.

17 **Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.**

18 For **I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing:** for **to will is present with me; but *how* to perform that which is good I find not.**

19 For **the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do.**

20 Now **if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.**

21 I find then a law, that, **when I would do good, evil is present with me.**

22 For **I delight in the law of God after the inward man:**

23 But **I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.**

24 **O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?**

25 **I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord.** So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.

- The battleground is the mind.

Rom. 8:6 For to be **carnally minded is death**; but **to be spiritually minded is life and peace**.

Isa. 26:3 **Thou wilt keep *him* in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee**: because he trusteth in thee.

- Much of the New Testament epistles are written to help us be conformed to the image of Christ.

Rom. 8:1 *There is* therefore now no condemnation **to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. ...**

5 For **they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. ...**

8 So then **they that are in the flesh cannot please God.**

9 But **ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you.** Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. ...

12 Therefore, **brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh.**

13 For **if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.**

Rom. 13:14 But **put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ**, and **make not provision for the flesh**, to *fulfil* the lusts *thereof*.

Gal 3:27 For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have **put on Christ**.

Eph. 4:21 **If so be** that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus:

22 That ye **put off concerning the former conversation the old man**, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;

23 And **be renewed in the spirit of your mind**;

24 And that ye **put on the new man**, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

A photograph of a group of people dining at a restaurant, overlaid with a semi-transparent purple filter. The scene shows several tables with white tablecloths, plates of food, and glasses. In the foreground, a hand is visible holding a glass. The background shows other diners and the interior of the restaurant.

Eph. 4:24 And that ye **put on the new man**, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

Col. 3:10 And have **put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him: ...**

12 **Put on therefore**, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;

Original Word: εἰκών

Transliteration: eikón

Definition: an image, likeness, bust.

eikón – **properly, "mirror-like representation,"** referring to what is very close in *resemblance* (like a "high-definition" projection, as defined by the context). **Image (*eikón*) then exactly reflects its source (what it directly corresponds to).** For example, *Christ* is the very *image* (*eikón*, supreme expression) of the *Godhead* (see 2 Cor. 4:4; Col 1:15).

" (*eikón*) **assumes a prototype, of which it not merely resembles, but from which it is drawn**" (R. Trench). (*eikón*) then is more than a "shadow"; rather it is a *replication* (F. F. Bruce, *Hebrews*, 226; see also Lightfoot at Col 3:10 and 2:21). <http://biblehub.com/greek/1504.htm>

The image of the Son of God, into which true Christians are transformed, is likeness not only to the heavenly body, **but also to the most holy and blessed state of mind, which Christ possesses.**

<https://www.blueletterbible.org/lang/Lexicon/Lexicon.cfm?strongs=G1504&t=KJV>

- The wondrous relationship of the Creator with the “new creature” is developed as we become more conformed to be the replication of Christ.

Conclusion

Col. 3:8 But now ye also **put off all these**; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth.

9 Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;

10 And have **put on the new man**, which is **renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him**:

11 Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond *nor* free: but **Christ is all, and in all**.

12 **Put on** therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;

13 Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also *do* ye.

A group of people is gathered around a table, likely for a meal or a social gathering. The scene is dimly lit, and a purple overlay is applied to the entire image. The people are partially visible, and the table is set with various dishes, glasses, and bottles. The text is overlaid on the image, providing a religious or motivational message.

14 And above all these things **put on charity**, which is the bond of perfectness.

15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.

16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

17 And **whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus**, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.