

A group of people are seated at a table in a restaurant, dining. The scene is dimly lit, with warm ambient lighting. In the foreground, a hand is visible holding a skewer of food. A white plate with a salad or similar dish is on the table. The background shows other diners and the interior of the restaurant. A semi-transparent dark purple rectangular box is overlaid on the center of the image, containing white text. The text reads: "Jer. 29:11 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, **to give you an expected end.**"

Jer. 29:11 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, **to give you an expected end.**



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:

“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, 5, Col. 2:13
- “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

- 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

- 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. 3:5-7

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

Rom. 8:15-16, Gal. 5:22-23

- 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** (used in Phil. 3:10)

<http://biblehub.com/greek/4832.htm>

Phil. 3:10, 21

- 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. 7:14-25

- The battleground is the mind. Rom. 8:6, Isa. 26:3
- Much of the New Testament epistles are written to help us be conformed to the image of Christ.

Rom. 8:1, 5, 8-9, 12-13

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: ...**

Original Word: εἰκῶν

Transliteration: eikón

Definition: an image, likeness, bust.

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

" (*eikṓn*) assumes a prototype, of which it not merely resembles, but from which it is drawn" (R. Trench). (*eikṓn*) then is more than a "shadow"; rather it is a *replication*.

<http://biblehub.com/greek/1504.htm>

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

- God created us for His glory.
- Because of sin, we have fallen short of His glory.
- When we are spiritually reborn, saved, we are now in position to fulfill His purpose for our lives in glorifying the Creator.
- How do we know His purpose?
- We must work “from general to specific.”

III. THE CREATOR’S INTENTION FOR HIS NEW CREATURE

Rom 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good **to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.**

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.

A. God's Design for His New Creature

1. The Calling – “...the called **according to his purpose.**”
2. The Conformation – “...**to be conformed to the image of his Son...**”

Phil. 2:5 Let **this mind be in you**, which was also in Christ Jesus:

Jn. 4:34 Jesus saith unto them, My meat is **to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.**

Col. 1:9 For this cause we also, since the day we heard *it*, do not cease to pray for you, and **to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;**

B. God's Desire for His New Creature

Phil. 1:6 Being confident of this very thing, that **he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:**

- Our Creator wants us to know His desire for us.
- Why would such sinful creatures like us want to do anything to glorify God?
- As we grow in grace and knowledge of His will, He is continually working in us.

Phil. 2:13 For **it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.**

Jer. 29:11 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, **to give you an expected end.**

C. God's Development of His New Creature

Eph. 4:15 But speaking the truth in love, **may grow up into him in all things**, which is the head, *even* Christ:

1 Pet. 2:2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, **that ye may grow thereby**:

2 Pet. 3:18 But **grow in grace**, and *in* the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him *be* glory both now and for ever. Amen.

- Our Creator likens Himself as a potter and we, the clay.

Clay in the Potter's Hands

God describes his relationship to us as a Potter. We are the clay. Like clay we can be moldable, or we can become hard. The choice is ours.

<http://www.creativeyouthideas.com/resources/game-ideas/clay-in-the-potters-hands/>

Rom. 9:21 **Hath not the potter power over the clay**, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour?

- As we yield our hearts to the Potter, we ARE HIS CLAY!

Isa. 64:8 But now, O LORD, thou *art* our father; **we are the clay, and thou our potter; and we all are the work of thy hand.**



https://www.google.com/search?q=god+is+the+potter+and+we+are+clay&source=lnms&tbm=isch&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwiztO7wkI7cAhWFxIMKHTJ7ADkQ_AUICigB&biw=1268&bih=885#imgrc=1ALW0aUDM0GVeM

- What happens when we are “marred”?

Jer. 18:2 Arise, and go down to the potter's house, and there I will cause thee to hear my words.

3 Then I went down to the potter's house, and, behold, he wrought a work on the wheels.

4 And **the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter: so he made it again another vessel**, as seemed good to the potter to make *it*. ...

6 O house of Israel, **cannot I do with you as this potter? saith the LORD. Behold, as the clay is in the potter's hand, so are ye in mine hand**, O house of Israel.

שָׁחַת *shâchath*, shaw-khath'; a primitive root; to decay, i.e. (causatively) ruin (literally or figuratively):—batter, cast off, corrupt(-er, thing), destroy(-er, -uction), lose, mar, perish, spill, spoiler, ✕ utterly, waste(-r).

<https://www.blueletterbible.org/lang/Lexicon/Lexicon.cfm?strongs=H7843&t=KJV>

- The Potter Who is able to make us a new creation at salvation, is definitely able to make us a new vessel for His glory AFTER our salvation!
- The “molding and making” of our lives, for His glory, after salvation includes the subject called “chastening” (correction.)

Heb. 12:3 For **consider him** that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, **lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.**

4 Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin.

5 And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, **despise not thou the chastening of the Lord**, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him:

6 For **whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth**, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.

7 If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?

8 But if ye be without chastisement, whereof **all are partakers**, then are ye bastards, and not sons. ...

11 **Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous**: nevertheless **afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.**

- Chastening is synonymous with “correction.”

Prov. 3:12 For **whom the LORD loveth he correcteth**; even as a father the son *in whom* he delighteth.

- Chastening is the “necessary evil” if we do not allow His Word to work within us.

1 Thess. 2:13 For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, **when ye received the word of God** which ye heard of us, ye received *it* not *as* the word of men, but as it is in truth, **the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.**

- What about disease and death that are NOT a result of chastisement?

Rom 8:28 And **we know that all things work together for good** to them that love God, to them who are the called **according to his purpose**.

- Each of us is His creation, for His glory – we walk by faith to please Him according to His will for our lives.

Rom. 9:21 **Hath not the potter power over the clay**, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour?

Rom. 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* **your reasonable service**.

2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, **that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God**.

Conclusion

Heb. 5:12 For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which *be* the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.

13 For **every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness**: for he is a babe.

14 But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, *even* those who **by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.**

Heb. 13:20 Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant,

21 Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom *be* glory for ever and ever.

Amen.

