

February 28th 2010

Sunday Bread

Identity series #3 "I am a new creation"

- **How do you see yourself? Do you get your identity from the world and what others think?**

It is not just young people who get their identity from how they feel the world sees them or thinks of them/ Adults, are just as capable.

- **Chris shared his own story:** right into my 20's and early 30's my identity was shaped massively on how I felt or thought other people saw me. What you think of me is important/people pleasing/didn't really have opinions of my own/ fearful to step out, shy/ didn't know what my gifts and future were all about cos I didn't know who I was as a human being rather than a human doing.

Who does God say we are?

1. **Week One** In Christ (ie we are in a new family. Adam or **Jesus?** Adam: Law(must do) Sin (slave to it) Death (dead to God, this is our wage) **Jesus: Law** (new nature, alive to God) **Sin** (Dead to sin, alive to grace) **Death** (dead to death, instead we now reign, not by trying harder but by grace)
2. **Week Two** His son or daughter. "This is my son whom I love in whom I am well pleased"
3. **Week Three** I am a New creation. **2 Cor 5:17** "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"

So what was the Old like? Eph 2: 1-2

- **What is it like to be dead to God and alive to sin?** Child drawing on wallpaper, when challenged why? I couldn't help it! What is that? It is being alive to sin. We are born with it...in Adam.
- **Have you seen anything dead before?** It doesn't respond to life. A dead body cant respond at all
- When Paul says you and I were dead, he doesn't mean physically dead, but dead to the realm/reality of relating to God.
- other things that reflect what Paul meant by "dead" here:
 - Carrot and celery: **alive** to growing orange bits and green bits **dead** to world/reality of walking or talking
 - Kitten: **alive** to play **dead** to dancing
- So my identity didn't come from knowing God and what he thought of me. Instead it came from trainers/clothes/performance at school/whether I was like or not/how much I earned/which girls liked me or not/
- All this left me with message..."you are not as good as them, you must try harder"

What is the new nature?

- **When I was seven, something happened to me.** Didn't understand everything
- **I chose to accept what Jesus did for me, Trust in that, and not my own striving:**
- **I used to be in Adam:**
 - **Law(must do)** but Jesus fulfilled the demands of the law and took the punishment for my failure to keep it. I take on Jesus nature, I was dead to this but God makes me alive by giving me a new heart and new mind.
 - **Sin (slave to it)** My new nature is alive to righteousness not sin. I am dead to Sin.
 - **Death (this was my wage)** my new nature is dead to death but alive to God. Life, adventure, excitement, dangerous life
- **I was made alive by God, by dying to the old self. How?** By accepting what Jesus did on cross as being enough to deal with my failure. Being good? No by grace, through faith.
- **Right then and there, I was a saint. Not a forgiven sinner.**
- **A new heart, spirit, 2 Peter 1:4 partakers in the divine nature! Paul says we have the mind of Christ** (1 Cor 2: 9-16) In my flesh

- My nature had been dead to God but new nature was alive to Him.
- I now knew in my mind that “I am a new creation”

So what is it like to live as a new creation?

- I was alive to God, but rejection was still massive.
- I was a new creation but I still sinned by believing rejection rather than how God sees me.
- We all relate to this/ become a Ctn/fantastic/then I fail, mess up, don't read my bible, act selfishly, then try harder to get it right (NO! not by law but by grace) then shame and guilt
- ***“I thought that my sin would just disappear but it is worse than ever. I know that I am forgiven by Jesus but how can I ever be free from the power of sin?!”***
- **Is there tug of war between the old and the new?...** scripture is clear the old has gone and the new has come. It is not that I need a little bit more of God to regenerate me and try to put to death more of old habits, no they are gone, dead, cant make it any more dead!
- **When we are regenerated by God we have his spirit in us and are new creations.**
- **This breaks our relationship with sin but it does not break the existence of sin.**
- **How does sin still influence us? Temptation. Temptation is not sin!**
- Sin no longer has the hold on us that it did but it is still around in the world and very real.
- **As a new creation I have a choice, choice to sin or to honour God.** As an old creation I didn't have a choice. I was in slavery to sin. Like child drawing on wallpaper. The miracle of new life is complete but I have a choice.
- **So when facing sin still in my life, need to start from place of realising that the battle is already finished, sin has been defeated and I need to see this victory already won.**

Example: Romans 6: 8-14 Eph 4:22 FOUR STEPS

- We live in kingdom by faith. What have I had to learn to do to see my rejection dealt with?
1. **So first believe what God says about your nature... v8 new creation. Dead to sin!**
 - I get a choice. Believe it!
 2. **Then second v 11 “Count” yourself dead to sin on a daily basis**
 - Accounting term “put it in that column because that is where it goes”
 - **2 Peter 1:3** *His divine power has given us **everything** we need for **life** and **godliness** through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.*
 3. **Another key is Eph 4: 22 put off the old** Faith exists in the heart and the head. So put off (confess truths of the heart (emotions) and truths of head (wrong thinking) ie the old rejection in order to embrace the new “I am alive to God, I am a son, in Christ...”
 - **Not about trying harder. God has given me this already. I have to learn how to draw on what God has already done for me**
 4. **Eph 4: 25 This will only come with honesty, opening up to others, Discipleship...who are you running with?**

Questions:

1. **Have you heard these truths before? Discuss how your thinking/beliefs have been challenged or changed since hearing this. Are there things you don't agree with what Chris taught on?**
2. **Chris shared how he had by faith held on to rejection in his old self rather than by faith believing and putting on (ie living in) his new nature. Describe some of the “old” self that you have been allowing to stay in your life “by faith”.**
3. **In your life, do you make enough opportunities to put off false hood and speak the truth to other members of the body (Saoirse) about your old self (Eph 4:25)? If not, why?**
4. **Identify one area in your life where you want to apply the four steps. Be accountable on this**