

# (re)union

Learning, Living, and Giving the Good News of Jesus

## Week 6: *Becoming Ourselves*

- SCRIPTURE TEXT: **Galatians 3:23-4:7**
- MEMORY VERSE: **John 13:34-35**
- (RE)UNION CHAPTER: 10 (Next week chapter 11)
- HOMEWORK: Study Buddy Chat + corresponding post at Bruxy.com.

### APPETIZER: The New Covenant and Self-Actualization

#### JESUS IS GOD WITH US, COME TO



#### SO WE CAN SHARE IN GOD'S LIFE.

**Self-actualization** is the drive within every human being to become all we were made to be; to transform all potential positive qualities into actual positive qualities.

- We were made in the image of God to love like God.
- The Old Covenant helped us live, but not love.
- The New Covenant helps us become ourselves.

### DINE IN: It's time to grow up!

**Galatians 3:23-4:7**

Also see **Colossians 2:16-3:3**

#### OLD COVENANT ETHICS...

Do this and you will be rewarded. Don't do that or you will be punished.

#### NEW COVENANT ETHICS...

God gives us a new heart, his Spirit, the example of Jesus, and the support of the saints, and then says, "Make the loving choice."

The Promise: **Jeremiah 31:31-34; Ezekiel 36:26-27**

The Problem: **Galatians 5:17**

The Solution: **Galatians 5:16**

**John 7:37-39; John 13:34-35**

Silver Rule → Golden Rule → Platinum Rule

\*\*\* *Love is the choice to value someone in attitude and action.* \*\*\*

Because love is active it expends energy, it takes work.  
Therefore, the essence of non-love is not hatred, but laziness.

The choice to love always leads to the increased wellbeing of both the lover and the beloved, without exception.

### TAKE OUT: Becoming The Lovers We Were Meant To Be

**John 7:37-39**

1. Know who you are: a reborn image of God, with a new heart.
2. Know whose you are: God's dear child, eternally loved.
3. Practice letting love lead: practice daily in the little things, to prepare you for the big things.

HOMEWORK: This week, train your spirit to love well! Set a timer on your watch or phone (or use post-it notes) to remind yourself to pause and notice ways the Spirit may be prompting you to initiate love around you in that moment.

#### STUDY BUDDY MESSAGE SUMMARY:

- Jesus claimed to bring humankind into the "new covenant" – a new way of relating to God and each other.
- Jesus **fulfilled the religious system** by becoming the last sacrifice, the priest who offers the sacrifice, and the temple where the sacrifice is offered.
- Jesus also **replaced the religious laws** of the Bible with four gifts: a **new heart** that is more responsive to God's guidance, the **Holy Spirit** to guide us from the inside-out, **Jesus himself** as an example, teacher, and guide in the way of love, and also the **community of faith**, the **church**, which operates like a family, where we can support one another in the way of love.
- The Old Covenant said, "Follow these rules or else." The New Covenant says, "Live how you want, but be open to allowing God to shape your wants."

### NEXT WEEK: Home Brewed!

Next week we pause for one week in our current series to listen to our very own Jimmy Rushton!

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## Home Church Questions

### HANGOUT [Warming Up to the Topic – in one Large Group]

1. Have you been tracking with the blog posts for this series at **bruxy.com**? Have they been helpful? Unhelpful? Something else? Let Bruxy know!
2. Review Sunday's message. Talk about something that stood out to you as an encouragement, challenge, disagreement, or question. (Take your time with this – there's lots to cover!)

### HEAR [Listening to God through Scripture – in Discussion Groups]

3. Read **Galatians 3:21-4:7**.
  - a. What verse or idea stands out to you?
  - b. Drawing from this passage, how would you respond to someone who asked, "If God always intended to send Jesus to show us this new covenant way, why did he set up the Law of Moses in the first place?"
  - c. Paul uses the analogy of the Old Testament law being like a kind of prison. In what ways does prison benefit a person/society? How does it hinder a person/society? Discuss how this relates to the idea of religious law.
  - d. See **verse 27**. During our "Simple Minded" series last fall, we had homework asking us to use our clothing as a physical reminder of the presence of God. How is our baptism a way to be "clothed" in Christ? What are some physical reminders you can give yourself this week to remain aware that Jesus is with you and guiding you?
  - e. Who do you think are Abraham's descendants today? (See **verse 29; 6:16; Romans 4:16; 9:8**.) What are the implications of your answer?

### HUDDLE [Making It Personal and Praying Together – in Huddles]

4. Use your regular huddle questions. Also pray for your Study Buddies, and for yourselves, that you might continue grow in your understanding of and ability to communicate the gospel.

*June 18/June 25, 2017 // @bruxy*

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## Quotes

Welcome to part 6 in our series on Learning, Living, & Giving the Good News of Jesus! Today's message is about the end of religion and the self-actualizing nature of the new covenant.

Let's look at some New Covenant teaching all about the end of the old and the new way of living that Jesus brings...

Before the coming of this new way of faith, we were held in custody under the law, locked up until the faith that was to come would be revealed.  
~ The Apostle Paul

So the law was our tutor, like a nanny, until Christ came that we might be justified by faith. Now that this faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.  
~ The Apostle Paul

Christ is the end of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes.  
~ The Apostle Paul

For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."  
~ The Apostle Paul

By calling this covenant "new," he has made the first one obsolete; and what is obsolete and outdated will soon disappear.  
~ Unknown Author of Hebrews

You are the new temple, like living stones, built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices.  
~ The Apostle Peter

Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.  
~ James the brother of Jesus

A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.  
~ Jesus