

# Christ Reformation Church

Tillamook, Oregon

*You Must be Born Again!*

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## *Train Up a Child – Raising Our Children as the Lord Raises His*

*07 – A New Creation*

*September 12, 2021*

**Sermon Text: 1 Cor 6:9-11**

**Scripture Reading: Psalm 51**

Pro 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.

This morning I want to talk some more about the crucial necessity of being born again. As we look into this matter of raising up our children as the Lord raises His children, we cannot emphasize enough that WE must be born again and that our goal is to see our children born again. Without this, in the end, all is lost.

Another reason I want to talk to you about the new birth is because we are surrounded today with “remedies.”

People have problems. They have relationship problems. They have mental problems. They are depressed. They are afraid. They are abused. And there are myriads of “fixes” offered to us for these ills. You have the counselors, the therapists, the psychologists, and other people who hang out a shingle offering healing of all sorts. And most all of it doesn’t really help. People are like this lady:

Mar 5:25-26 And there was a woman who had had a discharge of blood for twelve years, (26) and who had suffered much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was no better but rather grew worse.

Now, I want to be certain that everyone understands so that what I am going to say this morning (and I hope it is what the Bible says) is not misconstrued into some kind of thinking that a Christian should never see a therapist or be on medication – that all such things are evil and so on. No. Some problems are helped with medication. And there are therapists or counselors, etc. here and

there who understand the dynamics of things like trauma, PTSD, and so on.

But what I am proposing to you this morning, because it is what the Bible proposes to us, *is that unless a person is born again, then to a large degree they are just going to keep going around and around and around the same mountain, being a slave to the same old troubles.* And you see it, do you not? People who just never seem to get beyond their issues. People who you try and try and try to help, but to no avail. And many of them claim to be Christians.

I want to show you something this morning and I want us all to get hold of it firmly. It is this:

*There IS victory in Christ!! Christ has conquered the devil and this world. There is freedom and real healing in Him. But you have to know Him. You have to be in Him. You must be born again.*

Let's start here:

1Co 6:1-11 When one of you has a grievance against another, does he dare go to law before the unrighteous instead of the saints? (2) Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world is to be judged by you, are you incompetent to try trivial cases?

(3) Do you not know that we are to judge angels? How much more, then, matters pertaining to this life! (4) So if you have such cases, why do you lay them before those who have no standing in the church? (5) I say this to your shame. Can it be that there is no one among you wise enough to settle a dispute between the brothers, (6) but brother goes to law against brother, and that before unbelievers? (7) To have lawsuits at all with one another is already a defeat for you. Why not rather suffer wrong? Why not rather be defrauded? (8) But you yourselves wrong and defraud—even your own brothers!

(9) Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, (10) nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. (11) **And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.**

It seems that Paul, in rebuking these Corinthians for having disputes among themselves and going to the secular civil courts to seek a remedy, is intent

upon showing them *who they are in Christ*. And that their behavior is not in agreement with who they are as new creations in Him. They are NOT who they used to be. They have been born again.

He lists the evils of the world of which they used to be a part:

- Sexually immoral
- Idolaters
- Adulterers
- Homosexuality
- Thieves
- Greedy
- Drunkards
- Revilers
- Swindlers

And he reminds them that anyone whose very essence in their being, in who they really are, is characterized by these kinds of things, *is not in Christ*. *They are not born again. And in spite of what everyone, including many professing Christians, is telling such people, they will never see the kingdom of God*. Don't take your theology of salvation from the obituaries. According to them, everyone is going to heaven! Apparently no one goes to hell. God's Word is quite different.

Alright then, *look carefully at this verse again-*

**(11) And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.**

AND SUCH WERE SOME OF YOU. WERE. That one little verb. It is a past tense. Not ARE, but WERE. What a HUGE difference! That little 3 letter Greek verb is in a tense that indicates *continuous past action*. That is, these evils (one or more of them) WERE ongoing, habitual, and characteristic. Paul tells them, some of you WERE Idolaters, some of you WERE adulterers, some of you WERE Drunkards.... And such WERE some of you.

- Jack the swindler
- Jane the thief
- Gary the adulterer

They couldn't argue. Imagine this letter being read to them as they were gathered. They all knew it. Jack used to be a swindler. Jane really was a thief. Gary was an adulterer. BUT –

*...you were washed, sanctified, and justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and BY the Spirit.*

These verbs, all 3 already but not yet, already begun, yet to be fulfilled at the

Christian's resurrection, all have been accomplished. When we are born again, we are washed clean of our sin, we are sanctified – made holy to God, and justified – declared righteous before Him.

And what is the inevitable result? A new creation. A new birth. A new person. A new name. A new identity. Healing. Freedom. Deliverance. Cured. [Recently I sent several copies of David Needham's book Birthright: Christian, Do You Know Who You Are? Out to some of you. It is about this very thing we are talking about. Who we are now in Christ. Being who we are, and no longer living and thinking like the old person we used to be].

Consider this some more in regard to the kinds of things we see Christ healing. How were people in Scripture healed by Christ? What kinds of ailments did they have?

Mat 4:23-25 And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people. (24) So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought him all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases and pains, those oppressed by demons, those having seizures, and paralytics, and he healed them. (25) And great

crowds followed him from Galilee and the Decapolis, and from Jerusalem and Judea, and from beyond the Jordan.

Mat 9:35-36 And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. (36) When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

Mar 6:56 And wherever he came, in villages, cities, or countryside, they laid the sick in the marketplaces and implored him that they might touch even the fringe of his garment. And as many as touched it were made well.

Christ is victor over sin. Over the world and over the devil. *He is the remedy for ALL effects of sin.* And think carefully on this – *sin is the root cause of every single evil in this world. Every single one! Disease. Mental illnesses. Sexual aberrations. Fear. Death. Anxiety. Depression.* And His cure begins with *being born again.*

What do you need? What kind of healing do you require? What kinds of ailments do you suffer from? The ultimate remedy is Christ because every single one of these maladies has its root cause in sin and the curse and our

alienation from the life that is in God. Think! Were ANY of these evils present in Eden before the Fall? Did Adam or Eve experience ANY of the things we suffer from in this fallen world today? Were they ever afraid? No. Were they ever worried? No. Did hurricanes or tornadoes or floods or volcanoes or earthquakes ever sweep down upon them? No! Did they ever have a virus, or cancer, or diabetes, or any other sickness? No! But then, sin and death entered the world through Adam and the rest is the history of this world.

What is God doing in Christ? He is taking us back to Eden! And that means that it is in Christ where ALL ultimate healing is to be found. In order to tap into this healing, *you must be born again!* And when you are born again, *there is no ailment in your life that is beyond His ability to heal.*

YOU, Christian, have been healed, are being healed, and will be ultimately and finally healed. This healing has begun in Christ if you are born again. If you aren't, then try all the remedies you want, you are not going to be set free.

*The most pressing need of people in this world today is that they must be born again. And yet we see them turning to everything else for healing except to Christ. And the visible*

*church and professing Christians are not immune to these errors.*

This is where we go wrong. Consider for example someone suffering from PTSD. They have experienced some kind of severe trauma. A soldier in war, an accident victim, years of oppressive abuse, the horrific things that are present in this evil world. Now, such things can indeed have certain physical aspects to them – the brain gets rewired in some broken way for instance. I believe certain advances in understanding these kinds of effects of trauma have been made (though I am in no way an expert on this subject).

However, what is the fundamental root cause of such a condition? What is it that strikes at the mind and heart of someone suffering from these things? *Fear*. Trauma is all wrapped up in fear. Fear of wicked people. Fear of terrible events. Check this out:

Heb 2:14-15 Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, (15) <b>and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.</b>
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See it? The devil's power is rooted in

fear. Fear of death, and death is THE summation of everything that came into this world as a result of sin-

Rom 5:12 Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned—

Let's ask ourselves this question then:

***What effects did Adam's sin have? That is to say, is there anything at all in this world that is bad, painful, evil...that cannot be traced back to sin and the fall and the curse? No.***

Therefore-

***How many of the effects of sin is Christ the remedy for? If His purpose is to redeem us and the world from sin, to take us back to Eden, then is there any evil or hurt or disease or mental oppression or any other painful thing that Christ does not heal? No!***

And therefore, let's pursue this a bit further, the beginning, the starting point of healing from any hurtful thing *is to be born again*. And I suggest to you that THIS is being forgotten regularly in the church today. As a result, people are never really healed. They come to think that Christ is not sufficient. When the real problem is...they are not in Christ.

And no one is telling them this. They think they are Christians. So they go to the healers of our day. They go to the therapists. They go to the pastors and counselors. But they don't get better. They don't change. Because all the while the real problem is, they are not born again. They are still in Satan's dominion, still a slave to fear, and victory in Christ eludes them.

Let's try to think of a basic illustration of error at a fundamental level. Let me tell you about launching our boat. So we back the boat on the trailer into the water and I keep backing, further, a little further, and I'm asking Verla (who is holding the rope) if that is far enough. She says no, the boat is still on the trailer. So I back some more. She keeps saying more. I'm like – this is strange. And then she says “the trailer is floating!” And it dawns on me. I forgot to take the tie downs off! The boat is still tied to the trailer! Duh!!

Or think of this instance. I was rewiring the boat trailer and putting on new tail lights. And I could not get them to light up. I checked the plug in and the power and connections – nothing. So I had to do some more research and I learned something. If a light is going to light up, if any electrical device is going to work, then there has to be a circuit. A circle. The wires have to make a circle from the positive post of the battery, to the

device, and then back to the negative post of the battery. There has to be a circuit, a circle. Well. Now check this out. So that you don't have to run wires from each taillight or other device on a trailer back to the battery and have a jumble of lots of wires, the metal trailer frame itself is used as the circuit back to the battery. And that is why (if you've ever wrestled with your trailer lights no working) so often the problem is that the white ground wire connection to the trailer frame is the problem. Rusted or loose or something. And sure enough that is why my lights wouldn't work.

Now, what is the point? It is this – *until you address the fundamental, basic cause of the problem, all else is going to be frustratingly futile. You can put new light bulbs in. You can slam on the brakes to get the boat off the trailer. But if the ground wire is defective or the boat is still tied down, nothing is going to work!*

We must be born again!

Now, once we are born again, the remedy continues. And this healing is effected like this:

1Co 6:11 And such were some of you. But **you were washed**, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by

the Spirit of our God.

Eph 5:25-26 Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, (26) that he might sanctify her, **having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word**,

Tit 3:4-5 But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, (5) he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, **by the washing of regeneration** and renewal of the Holy Spirit,

That is, we have been washed and made clean from sin when we are born again, BUT this washing continues. Just as we have been saved, are being saved, and will be saved. And the chief instrument by which the Holy Spirit continues to cleanse us is the Word. The washing of the Word. It's like this:

Joh 8:31-32 So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, (32) and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

Christ's freeing truth. His healing truth. But unless we know Him and follow Him, unless we are born again, then the

fact is that we will never be set free of what ails us.

I think that this verse also addresses this:

Heb 10:22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

Have you ever wondered about this? What does it mean to have our conscience washed? Well, I think that it means to have our minds, our thoughts, healed. Washed free of the stain of sin that causes us to think wrongly, to believe the devil's lies, to be shamed and grieved falsely with lies. To be afraid of death when in fact Christ has given us victory over death. Cleansed in our minds of all this. And it is an ongoing work as long as we are in this world. *But we have to be diligent to read and hear His Word and to pray and ask Him to keep on washing us.*

Psa 51:5-7 Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me. (6) Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart. (7) Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

These then are the vital things. This is what we want for our children. We are happy that they were born, but we want them most of all to be born again.