

Walk in Newness of Life - if any man be in Christ he is a new creation

(Rom 6:4; 2Cor 5:16,17; Col 3:9-12; Eph 4:22-24)

New Man training is about the elimination of worldly distinctions in the body of Christ (race, class, gender, culture and religious expression) and the revelation and comprehension of biblical distinctions in the body of Christ (the old man vs. the new man, the natural man vs. the spiritual man, revelation vs. information, old laws vs. new laws, etc.). By eliminating the worldly distinctions from our thoughts, speech and actions and by understanding and applying the biblical distinctions to these same areas of our lives, we truly walk in newness of life and experience firsthand the reality of the new creation that we are in Christ. For in Christ there is "neither...nor", not 'either...or' in reference to who we now are - Gal 3:28 and Col 3:11 (Jew/Greek - race, circumcised/uncircumcised - religious expression, barbarian/Scythian - culture, slave/free - class, male/female - gender). By clinging to the identity we had before Christ we are sowing to the flesh and will reap accordingly. But if by the Spirit of God we are putting the flesh to death, then we are led by God's Spirit and are walking in newness of life. So what does this mean practically? That there is no such thing as a white or a black church, a Jewish Christian, an American Christian, a middle-class church, or a multicultural church for example. To think this way and use such terms in our daily communication is to "live according to the flesh", the outcome being death (Rom 8:13). Letting go of these worldly distinctions and understanding and believing who we are in Christ (a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, the people of God (2Pet 2:9) - our citizenship is in heaven, not on earth (Phil 3:20)) is nothing less than the "renewing of our minds" we see in Romans 12:1,2 and Eph 4:22-24. Why is this important? Because we are to "know no man after the flesh" (2Cor 5:16) as a precursor to becoming a "new creation" (2Cor 5:17). "The mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace" (Rom 8:6). "But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ" (Phil 3:7)....that "I may know Him and the power of His resurrection" (v. 10)....and "that I may gain Christ and may be found in Him" (v. 8,9). Letting go of who we were before Christ and understanding and believing who we now are in Christ is foundational to knowing Christ as fully as he can be known Him. May God grant you a revelation of the elimination of any worldly distinctions that may be keeping you from knowing Christ as fully as he may be known, and may He give you a revelation of the biblical distinctiveness of who you are in Him. In Jesus name.