

Good Morning Friend,

*We are God's workmanship, **created in Christ Jesus to do good works**, which God prepared in advance for us to do (Ephesians 2:10).*

*Put on the new self, **created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness** (Ephesians 4:24).*

Usually when we think of creation and the work of God, the Creator, our minds go back to the book of Genesis. That is, we think of the very beginning of time . . . and God's huge role of creating something out of nothing. The New Testament writers believed in that initial act of creation but they took us further and deeper into understanding Him as Creator. Peter, in I Peter 4:19 refers to Him as the personal Creator of our pathways. Even in the context of suffering, Peter instructs us *to trust our faithful Creator*.

In the Book of Ephesians, as noted in the two above texts, Paul takes us deeper yet. He urges us believers to grasp the reality of the Godhead continuing His creative work in us in moral and spiritual realms. Take another look at these two texts.

We are **created in Christ Jesus to do good works**. (2:10) Earlier in that chapter, he tells us that we are not saved by good works . . . but we are saved to do good works. The inner proof of His indwelling presence will be His workmanship in us creating good works. Jesus, in His earthly life "went about doing good." Now He wants to continue that by producing good works in and through us. When He comes into our lives, as C.S. Lewis put it, He does not come to do the work of redecorating or even remodeling. Rather He comes to re-make, that is to re-create.

We are also **created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness**. (4:24) Really? Me to be like God? Yes, that is what Paul is teaching us. Indeed we are to be like Him in these two areas of moral and spiritual likeness . . . NOT in perfection . . . NOT in an absolute sense . . . NOT in 100 percent clarity. There is to be growth in us in these areas. There can be growth. There must be growth in these areas. The longer we know Him, the more we should look like Him. Take another look at the text and notice that two specific qualities are mentioned . . .

[1.] Like God in true righteousness. The entirety of the Scriptures contrast two types of righteousness: God-produced righteousness and man-made righteousness. "True Righteousness" is God-produced. It starts on the inside. We will never have righteous conduct nor righteous speech until there is an inner explosion of God's righteousness. As we allow Him to create righteous desires, righteous motives, and righteous thoughts within us, then it will be revealed on the outside. Even now ask Him to begin and hasten that work in you. Let us pray similarly as some of the prayers we find in the Scriptures: *Search me O God, and see if there be any wicked way in me; Create in me a clean heart, O God; Lead me not into temptation but deliver me from evil; Cleanse me; Wash me; Oh that I may know you.* Like God in holiness. As we get alone

with the Lord, as we become quiet and still before Him, and as we sense this holy hush, we will hear Him say to us . . . *Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God almighty* (Isaiah 6:3). And He says, *Be holy as I am holy.*

Let Him continue His works of CREATIVITY in you.

Be encouraged,

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