

THE OLD PASSED AWAY

THEREFORE, IF ANYONE IS IN CHRIST, HE IS A NEW CREATION. THE OLD HAS PASSED AWAY; BEHOLD, THE NEW HAS COME.

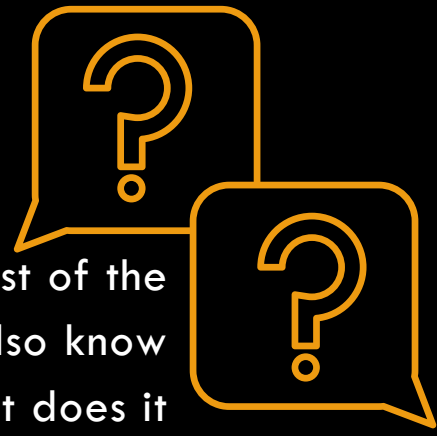
2 CORINTHIANS 5:17

"The stage that has been set for the question: What's wrong with us? What is our depravity? I was preaching a couple of years ago in a park in Minneapolis, and I spent significant time talking about the exceeding sinfulness of my own heart, the heart of my people, and the heart of everybody. And a woman from our church came up to me afterwards and she said a woman next to her had whispered, "You don't really believe that, do you?" People find it hard to believe that we Christians think we're as bad as the Bible says that we are.

What is the definition of *depravity* in Jeremiah 2:13? What is evil? Here they are: First, they have put their lips to the fountain of life and spit it out. That's God. Second, they have turned to the dirt and have scraped and scraped and scraped to make a cistern that will hold muddy water. And they've put their mouths to it and said, "That's satisfying." That is the nature of our depravity, that's who we are. We're born this way, everybody in this room is that way by nature. We do not prefer God, the fountain of all beauty.

We prefer broken cisterns over the fountain of living water. That's the meaning, the deepest meaning of our wickedness."

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER



What bad things remain active in your life? We don't like to think about ourselves in that way. In reality most of the time we know what is right and what is wrong. We also know how often we still choose to do what is wrong. So what does it mean that the "old has passed away"? How can that be true if I still struggle with so much sin?

How often do you take time and actually think about all the wrong things you do? Why do you, or why don't you do that?

Do you think it would be beneficial to "take inventory" of the areas that you struggle in often?

Why do you think Paul uses the past tense, saying "the old has passed away," even though we still currently struggle with sin?

Read Romans 6:5-7, how does this help us understand what Paul is trying to communicate in 2 Cor. 5:17?

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The Lord knows very well that you cannot change your own heart and cannot cleanse your own nature, but He also knows that He can do both. He can cause the Ethiopian to change his skin, and the leopard his spots. Hear this and be astonished: He can create you a second time; He can cause you to be born again. This is a miracle of grace, but the Holy Spirit will perform it... Let Him renew you and you will be renewed. Man's reformations and cleanings up soon come to an end, for the dog returns to his vomit. But when God puts a new heart in us, the new heart is there forever and it never will harden into stone again.

-Charles Spurgeon *All of Grace*

**QUOTE TO
CONSIDER**

**VERSES FOR THE
WEEK**

EPHESIANS 2:1-10

GALATIANS 5:16-25

ROMANS 8:9-11

EZEKIEL 36:26

