

HOME TALK

Making Disciples in the Middle of Everyday Life Mt 28:20a



Talking about the Third Article of The Apostles' Creed

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

What does this mean?

I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him, but the Holy Spirit has called me through the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, and sanctified and preserved me in the true faith, just as He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and preserves it in union with Jesus Christ in the one true faith, in which Christian church He daily forgives abundantly all my sins, and the sins of all believers, and at the last day will raise up me and all the dead, and will grant everlasting life to me and to all who believe in Christ, This is most certainly true.



228 What is the new birth?

The new birth, sometimes called regeneration, is the gracious work of the Holy Spirit by which He, because He has come to live in my heart, renews the image of God in me, and causes a new spiritual being.

1 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

John 1:12-13 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

Ephesians 4:22-24 ... you ... were taught ... to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

229 In what ways does the new birth affect you?

The Holy Spirit through the new birth changes me in the following ways:

1. He gives me a love for God **1 John 4:19** **We love because he first loved us.**

2. He gives me a love for other people. **Romans 5:5** ... and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

3. He gives me new spiritual understanding. **1 John 5:20** And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.

4. He gives me new power and a holy desire to do God's will. **Philippians 2:13** ... it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

5. He gives me true peace and joy in my conscience. **Romans 5:1** Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

6. He gives me a new sense of who I am. **2 Corinthians 5:17** Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

Psalms 23:5b-6 ... you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Ephesians 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Scriptures are noted in the English Standard Version

