

NEW CREATION

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Three parts of a spiritual Oreo cookie . . .

I. Paul's _____ to share the Gospel.

2 Corinthians 5:11-15 — "Since, then, we know what it is to fear the Lord, we try to persuade men. What we are is plain to God, and I hope it is also plain to your conscience. We are not trying to commend ourselves to you again, but are giving you an opportunity to take pride in us, so that you can answer those who take pride in what is seen rather than in what is in the heart. If we are out of our mind, it is for the sake of God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And He died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for Him who died for them and was raised again."

II. Paul's willingness to _____ for the Gospel.

2 Corinthians 6:3-13 — "We put no stumbling block in anyone's path, so that our ministry will not be discredited. Rather, as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: in great endurance; in troubles, hardships and distresses; in beatings, imprisonments and riots; in hard work, sleepless nights and hunger; in purity, understanding, patience and kindness; in the Holy Spirit and in sincere love; in truthful speech and in the power of God; with weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left; through glory and dishonor, bad report and good report; genuine, yet regarded as impostors; known, yet regarded as unknown; dying, and yet we live on; beaten, and yet not killed; sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich; having nothing, and yet possessing everything. We have spoken freely to you, Corinthians, and opened wide our hearts to you. We are not withholding our affection from you, but you are withholding yours from us. As a fair exchange — I speak as to my children — open wide your hearts also."

III. Paul's _____ empowers him in the Gospel.

Three transforming truths about WHO you are . . .

I. The *real* you is _____ (in Christ).

2 Corinthians 5:16-21 — "So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. **Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!** All this is from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to Himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And He has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making His appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become **the righteousness of God.**"

A. Your essential being has been radically _____!

B. Your true _____ will affect how you live. You are:

child of God — "How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are" (1 John 3:1-2).
saint of God — "Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, to the saints in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus" (Ephesians 1:1).
God's righteousness — "God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God" (2 Corinthians 5:21).
righteous and holy — "Put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness" (Ephesians 4:24).
God's workmanship — "For 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).
royal priesthood — "But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light" (1 Peter 2:9).
new creation — "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come" (2 Corinthians 5:17).
righteous by faith — "Not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ — the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith" (Philippians 3:9).

II. Everything you _____ arises out of who you _____.

A. _____ are you Christian?

Romans 12:2 — "Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is — His good, pleasing and perfect will."
Ephesians 4:20-24 — "You, however, did not come to know Christ that way. Surely you heard of Him and were taught in Him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; **to be made new in the attitude of your minds**; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness."

B. Don't believe the _____!

III. ALL your _____ have been _____.

A. "All means _____ and that's _____ all means!"

1 Peter 3:18 — "For Christ died for sins **once** for **all**, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit."
1 John 1:7 — "But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from **all sin.**"
Romans 6:10 — "The death He died, He died to sin **once** for **all**; but the life He lives, He lives to God."
Hebrews 7:27 — "Unlike the other high priests, He does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for His own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins **once** for **all** when he offered Himself."
Hebrews 9:25-28

B. Even when you don't _____ like it! (Jeremiah 17; Proverbs 29:26)

IV. You must **act** on this truth . . . _____!

2 Corinthians 6:1-2 — "As God's fellow workers we urge you not to receive God's grace in vain. For He says, 'In the time of My favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you.' I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation."

A. Don't wait — get _____ today! Become NEW!