

## UPWARD CALL

*Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but this is my one aim: to forget everything that's behind, and to strain every nerve to go after what lies ahead. I press on toward the finish line, where the prize waiting for me is the upward call of God*  
**IN KING JESUS.**

(Philippians 3:13-14)

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### ***One New Man in Christ—A New Creation***

For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall, by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances, so that in Himself ***He might make the two into one new man***, thus establishing peace, and might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity. (Ephesians 2:14-16 NASB [bold italic added])

Nearly 2,000 years ago, God sent His Son to this earth to take on the form of man and die for the sin of the world. He lived a sinless, perfect life and died for all mankind to deliver all born of Adam's race from the bondage of sin and death, for through one man (Adam) sin entered into the world, and through sin death, and thus death passed through into all mankind, on which all sinned (Romans 5:12 CLV). The first Adam's legacy to his race is death, the enemy of man. All born of Adam's race are born to die. Thank God, in the last Adam, all are destined to live, for *in Christ will all be made alive* (1 Corinthians 15:22), for the Son of God will one day abolish death (1 Corinthians 15:26).

At the heart of the cross is salvation by grace through faith. As Paul the apostle testified: *The grace of our Lord overwhelms, with faith and love in Christ Jesus* (1 Timothy 1:14 CLV), *for in grace, through faith, are you saved, and this is not out of you, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast* (Ephesians 2:8-9 CLV/NASB).

However, we must not stop at salvation by grace through faith. We must understand God's purpose in forming man from the soil of the earth and breathing the spirit of life into him. We must be a new creation in the Messiah Jesus in order to reign in the kingdom. God created man to rule or to have dominion over this earth. This is why He has been working for nearly 6,000 years—to bring forth a people (a new man, a new nation) that will rule with His Son over this earth; a heavenly or celestial people with glorified bodies like the body of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ (Philippians 3:21). When His saints see Him, they will be like Him (1 John 3:2). They will freely move between the celestial and the terrestrial (earthly) realms, just as Jesus did after His resurrection but before His final ascent to the throne.

Thank God; God found His man, the man who is now in glory, King Jesus. Through His Son's death on the cross of Calvary and His resurrection and ascension to the throne of God, God brought forth a new man which is neither Jew nor gentile but is truly a new man, ***a new creation***.

On the day of Pentecost, the holy spirit came down and 120 believers who were waiting in the upper room were baptized with the holy spirit (Acts 1:4, 5, 15; 2:2-4; Matthew 3:11). On that day, the one new man in Christ was born. Through the holy spirit, a people were called out from among the Jews and the gentiles that are no longer Jew nor gentile according to the flesh. This is a very important distinction. This was a mystery that was in God's heart. When the nation of Israel according to the flesh was brought forth, all mankind was divided. The nations (gentiles) were excluded from the promises made to ancient Israel. But in Christ, God opened the door to all the nations that they would be fellow heirs of the same body and partakers of the promises in Christ.

That by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already, by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ), which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets: that the Gentiles [nations] should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel... (Ephesians 3:3-6 NKJV)

When the one new man came forth, all past distinctions ceased for those who are part of this new man in Christ. This new man is entirely *new*.

...and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him—{a renewal} in which there is no {distinction between} Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and freeman, but Christ is all, and in all. (Colossians 3:10-11 NASB)

This is the one new man. The one new man possesses a positional stand *in* Christ. In this new man, Christ is all, and in all. This man is all of Christ, for he is in His image. In Christ, there is no longer a distinction based on any differences of the flesh.

But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. (John 1:12-13 NASB)

Those who are now part of the one new man are not in this place by the will of the flesh, but of God who wills. Prior to Pentecost, the nations outside of Israel were excluded from entering into the kingdom of God. Israel was offered this right, but they rejected it. They were to be fruitful, but instead they were barren, and thus the Lord took the kingdom from them. Upon their rejection, the Lord Jesus offered the kingdom to another nation.

Therefore, am I saying to you that the kingdom of God shall be taken away from you and shall be given to a nation producing its fruits. (Matthew 21:43 CLV)

The one new man in Christ is the new nation that is to bear fruit. In writing to sojourners and pilgrims (1 Peter 1:1; 2:11) of like precious faith (2 Peter 1:1), Peter revealed the identity of this new nation.

But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light: Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy. (1 Peter 2:9-10 KJV)

This holy nation is something entirely new. Prior to Calvary, many were not the people of God. The *many* were living in darkness, not in the light of God. They had not received mercy. In other words, they were lost in the world. But because of the mercy of God, many are now a new people, God's people who proclaim His praises as His own special people. This is the one new man in Christ. If you have been saved by grace through faith, then let your boast be in the Lord who has made you into and part of (collectively, corporately) a new man, a new race, a new creation, and a new nation. You are being conformed into the image of the one who created you. Can you imagine anything greater than being in the image of the Creator Himself? This is the destiny of all who are saved by grace through faith. Praise God!