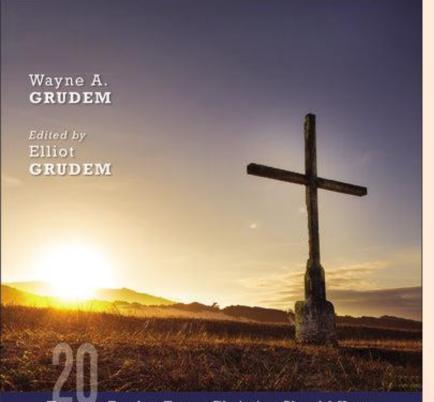
#### WHAT DO CHRISTIANS BELIEVE?



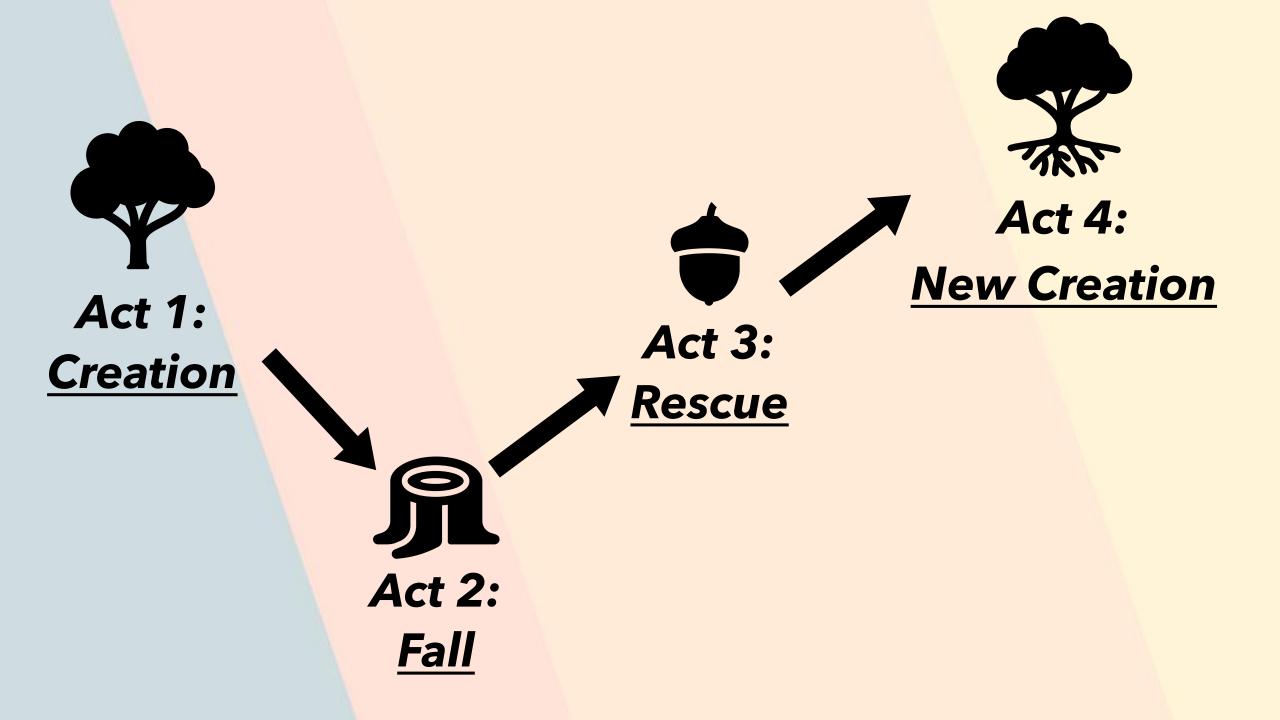
Twenty Basics Every Christian Should Know

#### CHRISTIAN BELIEFS

REVISED EDITION

#### **Renew Small Groups**

Charles Truscan
David Mangin
severn.cc/renew



#### **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.

#### **Revelation 21:3-5**

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. (4) He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." (5) And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new"...

#### WHEN?



#### **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.

### WHEN?

#### Already, But Not Yet



"Something which happened in the past has inaugurated something new which will reach its final consummation in the future."

- Alister McGrath in Theology Basics

#### WHAT?



## WHAT does it include?



#### **Revelation 21:5**

# And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making <u>all things</u> new"...

# WHAT does it include?

#### • All things!

#### **Revelation 21:1**

#### Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away...

# WHAT does it include?

- All things!
  - New heaven and new earth = transformed material universe
  - Some things RENEWED, some things REMOVED

#### **Revelation 21:2**

And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

# WHAT does it include?

- All things!
  - New heaven and new earth = transformed material universe
  - Some things RENEWED, some things REMOVED
  - Spiritual heaven will join material earth

# WHAT is it like?

#### **FUTURE**



Resurrected Bodies

#### **1** Corinthians 15:19-20

(19) If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied. (20) But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

#### **1** Corinthians 15:42-43

(42) So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable. (43) It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in ower.

# WHAT is it like?

#### **FUTURE**

#### **PRESENT**

- Resurrected Bodies
  - Imperishable, glorious, powerful
- Everlasting Life

#### John 10:10

# ...I came that they may have life and have it <u>abundantly</u>.

# WHAT is it like?

#### **FUTURE**

- Resurrected Bodies
   Imperishable, glorious, powerful
- Everlasting Life
  - Abundant
- Community

#### **PRESENT**

• The church

**1** Peter 2:9

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

### **Defining the Church:**

The people that God, through **Christ, has called out of darkness** into his light in order to love and serve Him, each other, and the world by proclaiming his excellencies.

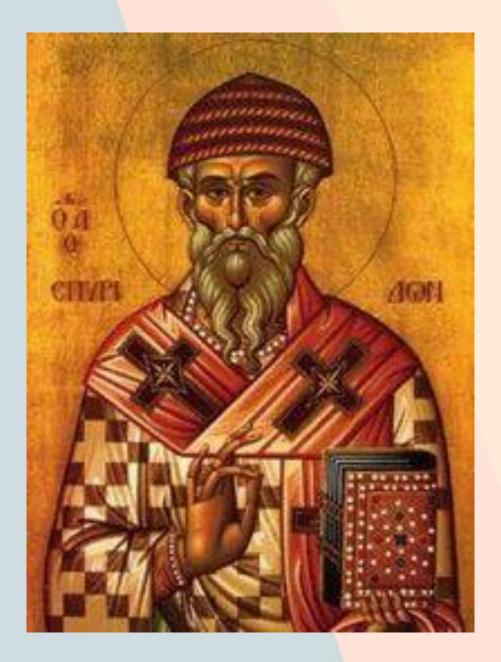
# WHAT is it like?

#### **FUTURE**

- Resurrected Bodies
   The church Imperishable, glorious, powerful
- Everlasting Life
  - Abundant
- Community

#### PRESENT

- - Holy
  - Catholic
    - Referring to the whole



"The church is called 'catholic' because it is spread throughout the entire inhabited world, from one end to the other, and because it teaches in its totality and without leaving anything out every doctrine which people need to know...It is also called "catholic" because it brings to obedience every sort of person - whether rulers or their subjects, the educated and the unlearned. It also makes available a universal remedy and cure to every kind of sin.

- Cyril of Jerusalem

# WHAT is it like?

#### **FUTURE**

- Resurrected Bodies
   The church Imperishable, glorious, powerful
- Everlasting Life Abundant
- Community

#### PRESENT

- - Holy
  - Catholic
    - Referring to the whole
- Foretaste of New Jerusalem

#### WHY?

#### For God's glory!

**1** Peter 2:9

#### But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

# HOW & WHO?

# The Holy Spirit! The Giver of Life

#### **Romans 8:9-11**

You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. **Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ** does not belong to him. (10) But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. (11) If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal **bodies** through his Spirit who dwells in you.

# HOW & WHO?

The Holy Spirit!
 The Giver of Life
 Both individually & corporately

#### **1** Corinthians 12:13

For in <u>one Spirit</u> we were all baptized into <u>one body</u>–Jews or Greeks, slaves or free–and all were made to drink of <u>one Spirit</u>.

#### **New Creation Summary:**

God the Father sent His Son Jesus to rescue us from our sins and give us the gift of His Holy Spirit to make us into both individual new creations and a corporate new creation called the church.

This new creation has been inaugurated now, but will be completed and consummated in the future after Christ returns and God makes all things new forever.

### The Big Question

# How then shall we live? By faith!

### Romans 8:12-13

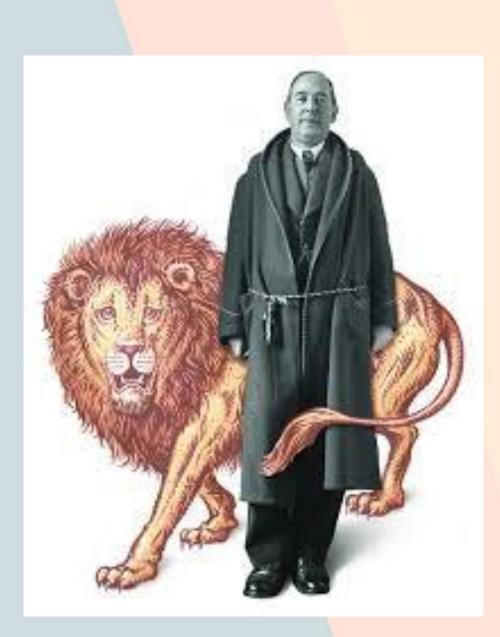
So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. (13) For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

## The Big Question

- How then shall we live?
  - By faith!
  - A transformed life empowered by the Holy Spirit!
     WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE: Colossians 3

#### **Colossians 3:1-4**

(1) If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. (2) Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. (3) For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. (4) When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.



"If you read history, you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were just those who thought most of the next... It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this. Aim at Heaven and you will get earth 'thrown in': aim at earth and you will get neither." - C.S. Lewis in *Mere Christianity* 

# What a New Creation Life Looks Like:

#### Col. 3:1-4 = Be heavenly minded

#### **Colossians 3:5-9**

**Put to death therefore what is earthly in** you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry...(8) But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. (9) Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices

# What a New Creation Life Looks Like:

Col. 3:1-4 = Be heavenly minded
Col. 3:5-9 = Put <u>off</u> some things

### Colossians 3:10-14

(10) and [you] have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. ...(12) Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience...(14) And above all these put on love...

### What a New Creation Life Looks Like:

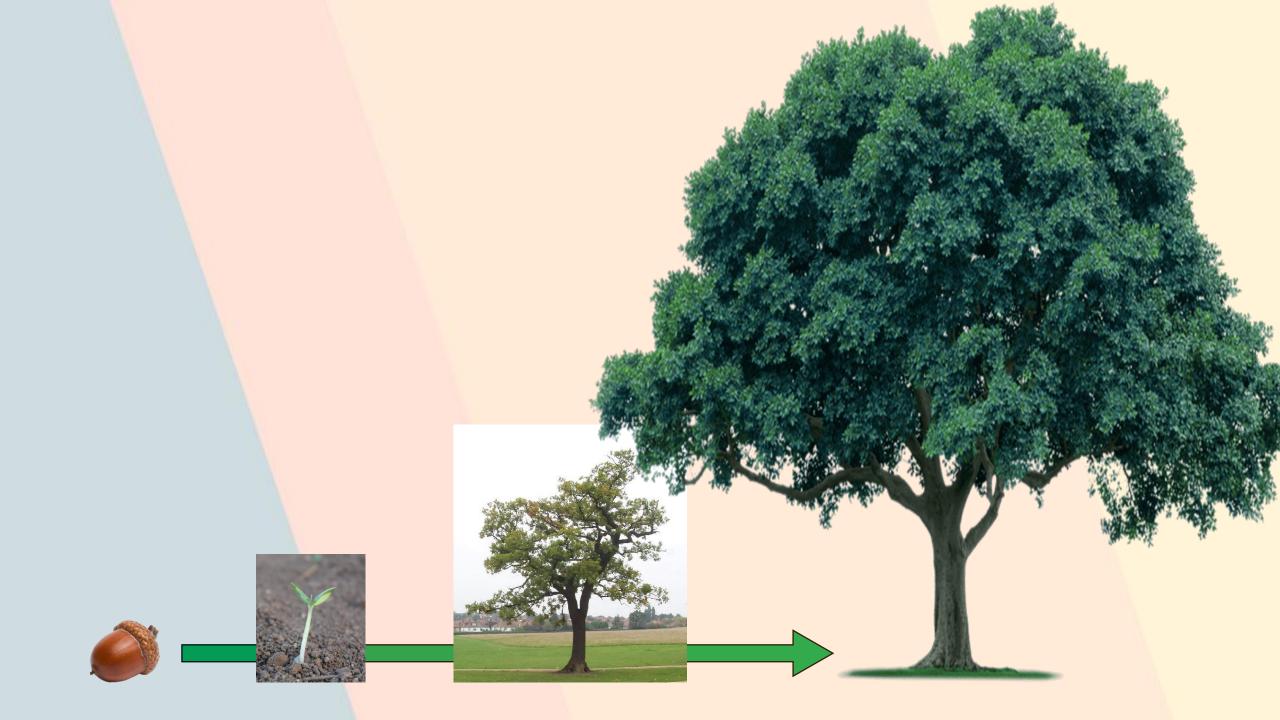
- Col. 3:1-4 = Be heavenly minded
  Col. 3:5-9 = Put <u>off</u> some things
- Col. 3:10-14 = Put <u>on</u> some things

### Colossians 3:15-16

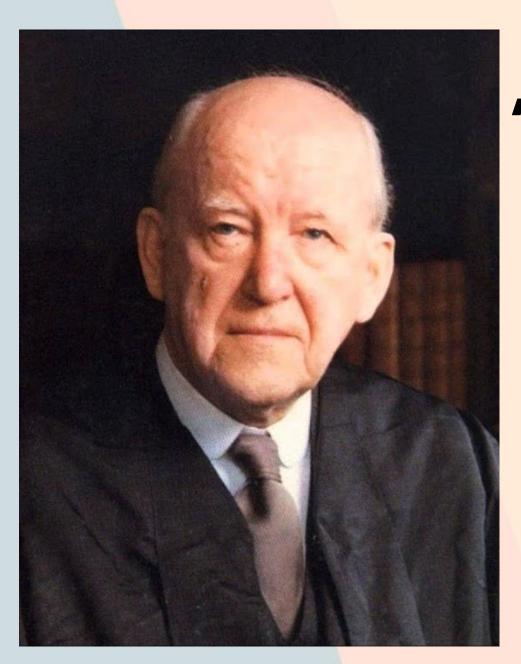
(15) And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in <u>one body</u>. And be thankful. (16) Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

# What a New Creation Life Looks Like:

- Col. 3:1-4 = Be heavenly minded
- Col. 3:5-9 = Put off some things
- Col. 3:10-14 = Put <u>on</u> some things
- Col. 3:15-16 = Commit to the church







### "Our greatest need is to become who we already are in Christ." - Dr. Martyn Lloyd-Jones