

THE BEAUTY AND BLIGHT OF HUMAN LIFE: CREATION, FALL, REDEMPTION, AND NEW CREATION
Bruce A Ware, Professor of Christian Theology, Southern Seminary, Louisville, KY, USA

Session Four: Consummation of Humanity in the Fullness of Christ

- I. Newness that is “Now” and “Not Yet” – the Inauguration of Christlikeness
 - A. Individual newness “now” while waiting longingly for what is “not yet”
 1. Col 3:5-11 – the “now” of our newness in Christ; we “have laid aside” the old self
 2. Eph 4:22-24 – the “not yet” of our newness in Christ; we must “lay aside” the old self
 3. 2 Cor 3:18 – principal means for our growth – beholding the glory of Christ
 - B. Corporate newness “now” while waiting longingly for what is “not yet”
 1. Rom 8:19-25 – we, along with all creation, await the full expression of our adoption
 2. Eph 4:11-16 – every-member ministry, equipped by gifted leaders, brings about growth
 3. 2 Cor 5:17-21 – new creatures now, to proclaim the good news of reconciliation
 4. Heb 10:19-25 – “Let us” draw near . . . hold fast . . . consider . . . awaiting the fullness
- II. Glorification – the Consummation of Christlikeness
 - A. Individual Renewal – becoming like Christ when we see Christ
 1. Phil 3:20-21; 1 Cor 15:42-58 – resurrection of the body and our glorification
 2. 1 John 3:1-2 – becoming like Christ “*because* we will see Him just as He is”

3. John 17:24 – beholding the glory of Christ forever will hold us in our conformity

B. Corporate Renewal – purified and beautified as the Bride of Christ

1. Gal 4:19 – the labor Paul exerted was for the purpose of seeing Christ formed in others

2. 2 Cor 11:2 – together we constitute the bride of Christ, calling for our faithfulness to our Betrothed now as we await the consummation of our union

3. Rev 19:7-9 – at the marriage supper of the Lamb, the bride’s purification is complete!

III. Heaven – the Everlasting Expression of Christlikeness

A. Individual expression of the image of Christ in reigning with Christ forever

1. Rev 21:3-7 – the joy of personal care by God himself in which our adoption is complete

2. Rev 2:26; 3:21; 22:5 – all those who overcome sit with Christ on his throne exercising authority with Christ in his reign over all nations

B. Corporate expression of the goal of Christlikeness through glorifying God forever

1. Rev 21:22-26 – the collective whole of the nations are present in the new Jerusalem

2. Isa 66:22-24; Zech 14:9 – the nations of the world will worship Yahweh, the God of Israel

3. Isaiah 11:9-10; Habakkuk 2:14 – the earth will forever be full of God’s glory!