



## FOUR MAJOR SHIFTS OF THINKING

### ... from JESUS

The Apostle Paul talks a lot about what it means to be “in Christ”. It is a way of living in which you are constantly growing in your connection to God through Jesus. We see each day as an opportunity to get more “soaked” in the Living

Water of the Spirit. And as Jesus becomes more central to our consciousness inside, how we perceive the world outside of us radically shifts.

*So, if you are in Christ: Wow! A new reality! You move beyond the old vision into a whole new way of seeing!*  
- 2 Corinthians 5:17 (Danforth translation)

Here are four major shifts in thinking affirmed by the life, death, and teaching of our Master Jesus:

1. From LAW → \_\_\_\_\_. Rule and regulations have their place in restricting bad behavior. But in order to live fully and abundantly, we look to “connecting to God, connecting to others, and helping others to connect to God.” Consciously connecting to God’s continuous activity, we begin to understand God’s Servant Heart more deeply and learn to imitate that serving with everyone around us.
2. From POWER \_\_\_\_\_ → POWER \_\_\_\_\_. Our tendency to use our power to protect ourselves (and our happiness) by controlling and manipulating. Jesus, in the powerlessness of the Cross, has set us free from this slavery. Instead, we are able to take His Servant’s Towel and wash the feet of the “least of these”. Learning to exercise God’s brand of power is vital to living in, what Jesus called, “My Shalom (peace)”.

3. From EXCLUSION → \_\_\_\_\_. The undesireables and outcasts became Jesus’ friends. God challenges the walls we build around ourselves to maintain the illusion of self-made safety. Instead, Jesus invites us into a radical hospitality where even our “enemies” are welcome into a safe and loving space. Such hospitality compels us to LISTEN to what the other is saying and to respond in grace and truth. This is hard. But so transforming.
4. From BUILDING → \_\_\_\_\_. One of the things that got Jesus killed is his assertion that a new Temple was replacing the old. It was a shift from the physical beauty of the Jerusalem Temple mount (with all its gold and splendor) to the (more awesomely beautiful) location of the heart. The transfer started with Jesus’ heart, then went to the collective Church’s heart, then out to individual hearts, like you and me. It is a shift of “sacred space”, the dwelling place of the Infinite Creator, from a building location to a body to those who desire to be “living temples” of God’s love and power to a world crying out for true and lasting GOOD NEWS.

Think about the practical implications for your day-to-day life that arise from these four shifts in thinking. What is God whispering to you? Where is Jesus beckoning you to see life in new ways, to abandon old thinking, to more courageously live into His reality of surprising growth and new beginnings?

(Some Scripture to consider: **1**) Matthew 5: 1-48; Galatians 3: 1-29, **2**) John 13: 5-35; 2 Corinthians 12: 7-10, **3**) Luke 9: 46-56; Matthew 11: 16-19; Acts 10: 1-48, **4**) John 2: 13-21, 1 Corinthians 6: 19-20; 1 Peter 2: 1-12.)



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