

EVERYTHING
NEW



Everything New

Theme for April is "Everything New." Theme Scripture: **2 Corinthians 5:17** (NIV)
Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

The idea of "everything new" can feel overwhelming. Many of us prefer our routines and familiar comforts—same meals, same routes, same songs. Yet, embracing newness is essential for growth and relevance.

Today, we'll explore the necessity of letting go of old patterns and how to wisely discern what to keep and what to discard.

The Importance Of Newness

It is dangerous to have something new and expect it to work well without adjusting the old.

A. Parable of the Wineskins

Luke 5:36-39 (AMP) *He also told them a parable: 'No one tears a piece of cloth from a new garment and puts it on an old one; otherwise he will both tear the new, and the piece from the new will not match the old.'³⁷ And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; otherwise the new [fermenting] wine will [expand and] burst the skins and it will be spilled out, and the skins will be ruined. ³⁸ But new wine must be put into fresh wineskins. ³⁹ And no one, after drinking old wine, wishes for new; for he says, 'The old is fine.'*

B. Wine as a symbol.

Ephesians 5:18 (NLT) *Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit.*

Wine represents the tangible presence of the Spirit. We, as containers, must be flexible and renewed to hold God's new work.

C. Danger of Tradition

Mark 7:13 (NKJV) *making the word of God of no effect through your tradition which you have handed down. And many such things you do.*

2. Evaluating the Old

A. Not All Old Things Are Bad

Value of Old Wisdom and Seasoned Leadership:

God uses His tested, tried and called ministry gifts to protect the Body of Christ from strange beliefs.

Ephesians 4: 11- 14 (NLT)

Job 12:12 (ESV) *Wisdom is with the aged...*

1 Timothy 5:17 (ESV) *Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching.*

Titus 2:4-8 (NLT) Older generations are vital for teaching and guidance.

B. Refreshing What's Useful

- Process of Renewal

- Cleaning with Water

Ephesians 5:26 (NKJV) *Washing of water by the word.*

- Anointing with Oil
- Represents sacrificial worship and prayer.

In all four Gospels, a woman anoints Jesus with oil as a sacrificial act of worship (Matthew 26:6-13; Mark 14:3-9; Luke 7:36-50; John 12:1-8).

C. The Balance of Old and New

While some old things are valuable, certain aspects of our lives, particularly our sinful nature, must be completely renewed.

When Jesus rose from the dead, He possessed characteristics beyond those of a normal human body, including the ability to appear and disappear, pass through walls, and travel at the speed of thought, showcasing a divine power.

3. The Place for Complete Newness

A. Nature of Sin vs. Nature of Christ

Sin and Christ cannot coexist harmoniously—like oil and water.

2 Corinthians 5:17 (ESV) *If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.*

B. A New Way of Living

Romans 12:2 (NKJV) *Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind...*

C. Power Over Sin

Romans 6:14 (ESV) *For sin will have no dominion over you since you are not under law but under grace.*

D. The New Covenant

Hebrews 8:13 (NLT) *The first one is obsolete.*

The new covenant through Jesus provides freedom from the law and gives us a new life.

Conclusion: Making a Commitment to Newness

Today, we commit to putting new wine into new wineskins, embracing freshness while safeguarding the essential truths of our faith.

Preventing Irrelevance: We will refresh, retain, and restore what is foundational, ensuring we do not get swept away by false teachings.

Acknowledging Our New Covenant: Through Jesus Christ, we are completely free from the sin nature and old patterns. We are empowered to live completely transformed lives.

Let's embrace the newness that we have through Christ Jesus and ensure that we are equipped to function as His heirs.